

THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,894

MONDAY 12 APRIL 1999

(1R50p) 45p

16-PAGE SPORT SECTION

ALL THE HIGHLIGHTS OF A SPECTACULAR WEEKEND'S SPORT INCLUDING WALES' FIVE NATIONS VICTORY AND NEWCASTLE'S FA CUP SEMI-FINAL WIN

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Nato hits Serb troops as fears rise for 100,000 'disappeared'

THE WAR in the Balkans grew fiercer yesterday with more bombings, more deaths and more reports of Serb atrocities, and scant evidence that any solid diplomatic initiative was in the offing – or that 19 days of air bombardment was breaking President Slobodan Milosevic's determination to resist.

Though it scaled back missile and bomb attacks on Serbia proper because of the Orthodox Easter, Nato extended night raids on Pristina into the morning hours, aiming at munitions dumps, oil facilities and radio relay stations and Yugoslav troops in the field. Bad weather hampered operations but the Yugoslav media said three civilians, among them a three-year-old girl, died in Mirovac, north Kosovo.

Alliance political leaders pointed to the dispatch of new firepower, including the British aircraft-carrier *Invincible* and

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

Yesterday "only" 4,000 refugees crossed the newly reopened border into Albania. Western relief agencies are braced for heavy inflows this week. Every tale by terrified escapees, every shred of circumstantial evidence, suggests that Serb repression in the province continues unabated.

The most sinister mystery is the whereabouts of 100,000 – perhaps double that – "missing" ethnic Albanian males of fighting age, who have been separated from their families by the Serbs or failed to cross the border as refugees. In the absence of facts, theories abound: that they have been herded into camps by the Serbs or have taken to the hills to help scattered units of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) still operating as partisans against the Serbs – or that they have simply been massacred.

In Brussels, Jamie Shea, Nato spokesman, produced pictures of newly turned earth at Pusto Selo, south-west of Pristina, which he said could be evidence of a mass grave and which would be examined by the international tribunal in The Hague investigating war crimes in former Yugoslavia.

In London, Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, said as many as 400,000 Kosovars were living on hills and mountains in Kosovo without food or water – another catastrophe to add to the plight of the 500,000 Kosovars who have fled into Macedonia and Albania. "It's still a place of terror," Mr Cook said. "Villages are still being burned, people are still being forced out at gunpoint."

Albanians who gathered in Trafalgar Square shared Mr Cook's opinion, taunting several hundred pro-Serb demonstrators who were calling for an end to the bombing war.

"We are begging Nato to send in ground troops or arm the KLA, because the situation on the ground is getting worse by the minute," one Albanian, Meriton Krasniqi, said.

But the land war public opinion increasingly supports is officially still not on the cards. Both Mr Cook and Mr Blair again denied suggestions Nato was quietly readying a ground war by sending the extra troops and weapons into Albania, the likely launch-pad – an impression heightened by Tirana announcing it was placing the country's ports, airspace and other infrastructure under Nato control. A ground war "would be a massive undertaking and would take time to prepare", the Prime Minister told *Newsweek*.

Mr Cook did leave open the possibility that the alliance



The Serbian Orthodox Patriarch, Pavle, praying during Easter liturgy in Belgrade yesterday Petar Kujundzic

could enter Kosovo uninvited if Serb troops there had been so weakened by air attacks that they offered no resistance or had been pulled out. But that was a hypothesis "some way down the road".

On the diplomatic front too,

progress is minimal. Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State, today meets Nato colleagues in Brussels and tomorrow holds talks in Oslo with Igor Ivanov, Foreign Minister of Russia, which has tried to broker a compromise to halt the bombing.

Neither occasion is likely to produce a breakthrough. Russian rhetoric has cooled since Friday's mutterings by President Boris Yeltsin about a European, even a world, war if Nato launched a ground invasion. But Moscow's mood will

not have been improved by Hungary's refusal to allow transit to part of what was described as a relief convoy, on the basis that it contained some armoured vehicles and was carrying fuel, both proscribed by UN sanctions.

Sports orgy strains couch potatoes' eyes

BY KATHY MARKS

MANY MEMBERS of the nation's workforce, mainly male, will prize themselves off their sofas this morning and stumble square-eyed into offices after an unprecedented weekend of televised sport.

A confluence of top sporting events including the Grand National kept much of the population indoors, rousing itself only to collect another six-pack or hunt for the remote control.

For sports fans, the embarrassment of riches was less lit-

eral, and provoked many an agonising quandary.

The Grand National at Aintree – won for the first time since 1975 by an Irish horse, Bobbyjo, ridden by Paul Carberry – clashed with Scotland's 36-22 victory over France in the Five Nations Rugby in Paris on Saturday afternoon. There was also the usual round of league football matches.

On Saturday evening, hard-

core viewers were forced to choose between the US golf Masters in Augusta and the World Boxing Organisation bout in which Naseem Hamed successfully defended his featherweight title against Paul Ingle in Manchester.

Yesterday the schedule was even more hectic, starting with two FA Cup semi-finals which saw Manchester United and Arsenal draw 0-0 and Newcastle

United beat Tottenham Hotspur 2-0. Both games clashed with England's one-day cricket match against India in Scotland. Rangers won their Cup semi-final to ensure an Old Firm clash against Celtic.

Yesterday, nearly back-to-back, came Wales's last-minute 33-31 win against England in the Five Nations, which gave the championship to Scotland, followed by the Brazilian Grand

Prix and the US Masters final round, with Jose Maria Olazabal, Colin Montgomerie and Greg Norman strongly fancied.

If predictions prove correct once the final sums are done, it will have been the biggest betting weekend on record. Cash wagers just on the Tote at Aintree added up to more than £1m, and total punts on the race are estimated at £70m.

Sport, 16-page section

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TODAY'S TELEVISION BACK PAGE

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ALLURE
FOR MEN

CHANEL

WAR IN THE BALKANS

"Get out. Go to your Bill Clinton. This is Serb land"
Masked gunman evicting ethnic Albanians from Kosovo

"I think the penny is now beginning to drop in Belgrade that we can keep going longer than he can"
Robin Cook

"Even if we had ground troops right now, this still wouldn't be the right time to put them in"
Nato military official

"We counted 26 bodies. We buried some, but we were afraid to be on the streets if the police came"
Gani Randonic, refugee

"You will probably see some movements on the diplomatic front"
Javier Solana, Nato Secretary General

"We are very concerned about the fate of displaced persons in Kosovo itself"
Jamie Shea, Nato spokesman

Kosovars fear cull of the young men

THE MISSING MEN

BY KIM SENGUPTA

AS THE brutality and suffering in Kosovo worsens, another horror appears to be unfolding, with reports that thousands of young men have been separated from their families, taken away, and possibly executed.

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, said yesterday that he believed almost 400,000 people inside Kosovo were in hiding, cold and starving, in the mountains. His account was based on a telephone conversation with Hashim Thaci, one of the leaders of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

Mr Thaci has his own agenda, which is to deepen the West's involvement. And with 1.5 million people on the move, out of Kosovo's population of 1.8 million, it is difficult for observers to monitor the ethnic cleansing carried out by Slobodan Milosevic's forces.

But Kosovo refugees now in Albania and Macedonia have consistently spoken of men being rounded up and taken away by Serb militiamen.

Mr Cook's concern, shared by Nato, is based on the situation in the refugee camps, where aid workers have noted the fact that adult males comprise only 10 per cent of the intake. It means at least 100,000 men are missing,

though the figure may be much higher.

Some of these men may have decided to stay in Kosovo to fight in the ranks of the KLA. But there is now widespread apprehension among the rest of the West. Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, said that President Milosevic's regime will be brought before war crimes tribunals for any crimes committed against the Kosovar people.

Nato's fears have received some confirmation with reports of mass graves. The alliance yesterday released satellite pictures purporting to show what could be the site of a mass grave in the central town of Orahovac.

The alliance said last week that it believed large-scale killings by Serb authorities were taking place. Nato's spokesman, Jamie Shea, said it was up to the International Criminal Tribunal, set up in The Hague, to investigate the matter in the future.

The West's fears are based on past experience of the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia. In the summer of 1995, after over-running the eastern town of Srebrenica, the Bosnian Serb army separated men from their families and killed as many of them as they could.

The ruthless operation was designed to make sure they never joined the Bosnian government army – as well as demonstrating the Serb obsession with halting the growth of the Muslim population. At the time, most governments in the West regarded the claims of Serb atrocities as propaganda.

Kosovo refugees have given details of where a number of mass graves containing young men are sited. One is near Podujevo, in the north of the province, a former KLA stronghold. More than 200 men are said to have been shot there.

Other sites are at Malakrusa, where there were reports of shootings and burnings. There are said to have been further killings at Pashovica, Vellia Krusa, Suva Reka, Kosovo Polje and Malisevo.

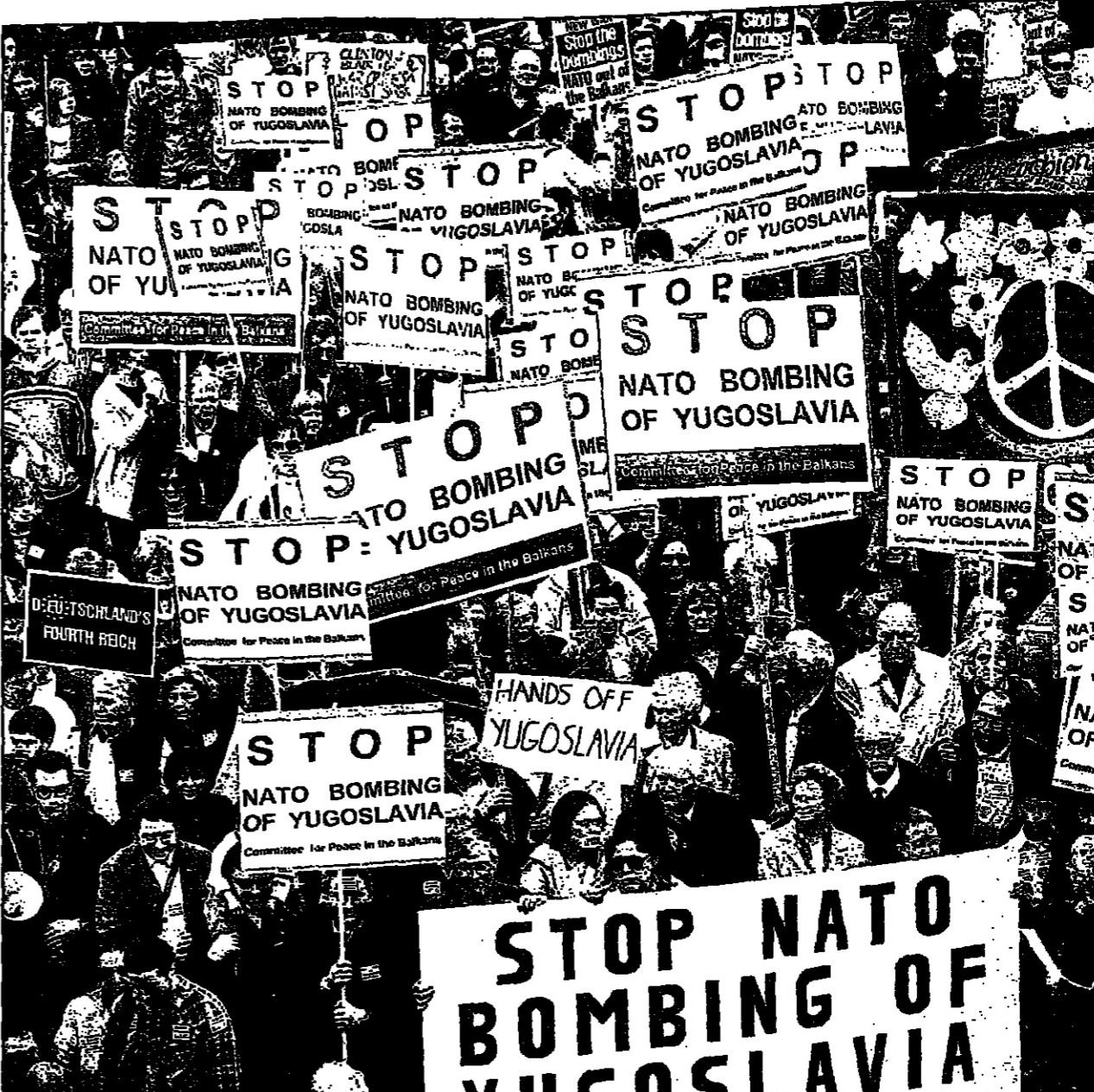
The refugees have made other claims that mirror the grim events of the Bosnian conflict, which pitted Serbs, Muslims and Croats against each other. While the men have been taken away, Kosovo women are said to have been raped at checkpoints. Many of the victims have been too ashamed, it is said, to report what happened to aid workers.

There are also allegations that the Serbs have been setting up "rape camps", where their victims have been shot and buried, after being imprisoned and abused. A Pentagon spokesman, Kenneth Bacon, spoke of "an eerie and disturbing echo of instances of rape and killing of women during the Bosnian war".

Unlike at the time of the Bosnian war, the West is now prepared to accept the worst possible reports about the behaviour of Serb forces, even if the numbers mentioned are treated with caution.

There is no intrinsic reason, say observers, why the Serb forces should have changed their ways.

For Nato, the reports are another reminder of the problems of its current strategy. Not only are air strikes failing to stop the abuse of the civilian population, there is a major lack of knowledge about what exactly is going on in Kosovo.



Tony Benn leads a march in London yesterday against the Nato bombing of Yugoslavia. The march, from the Embankment to Trafalgar Square, was organised by the Committee for Peace in the Balkans

Tom Craig



YESTERDAY EXTREMES

Wearness: Fendover 14°C (57°F)
 Coldest (day): L. Gloscarrach 8C (46°F)
 Wettest: Wick 3.4 mm
 Sunniest: Dorchester 8.1 hrs
 For 24hrs to 2pm Sunday

	Sun hrs	Rain mm	Max °C	°F
Aberdeen	8.6	0	14	57
Anglessey	6.4	5.3	12	54
Antrim	7.0	1.5	11	52
Belfast	6.8	0.5	11	52
Cork	3.10	3.3	3.7	40
Douglas	2.26	3.6	3.6	40
Dover	8.54	5.9	9.2	58
Dun Laoghaire	9.32	3.0	10.3	54
Falmouth	2.29	4.3	3.7	44
Greenock	10.35	1.0	10.4	52
Guildford	9.13	2.3	15	57
Holyhead	8.17	4.7	8.7	48
Hull (Albert Dk)	4.06	7.2	4.9	54
Kings Lynn	4.21	3.1	4.30	54
Lisbon	12.21	4.5	-	-
London	9.00	9.26	8.0	52
Midland Haven	3.51	5.4	4.24	56
Newquay	2.50	5.5	3.22	56
Portland	4.14	1.3	5.06	4.4
Porthsmouth	9.18	3.8	9.58	47
Scarborough	1.58	4.5	2.09	47
Sheffield	8.58	2.6	9.51	52

Height measured in metres

AIR QUALITY
 Today's readings

Region	Index	Score
London	50	Good
S England	50	Good
Wales	50	Good
C England	50	Good
Scotland	50	Good
N Ireland	50	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 06:13 Sun sets: 19:51 Moon rises: 04:50 Moon sets: 13:04 New Moon April 16th

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts call 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)

OUTLOOK

All areas will become much colder than recently with a strong north to north-westerly wind adding to the chill. The south and west will have sunny spells and showers, the showers turning increasingly wintry. Northern and eastern areas will be cloudier with some longer spells of rain and sleet.

TRAVEL

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31st December. Co. Antrim: A1 Kingsway, Dumberry, roadworks, various lane restrictions. Until 20th June. Warrington: M62 Between J10 Tawstock services and J9 Sutton Coldfield. Roadworks and contraband. Until 28th April. Derbyshire: A6 Between Derby Southbound Bypass (A50) and Sharrow. Roadworks and contraband. Until 28th April. Doncaster: A630 (A617) and A631 (A617B). Sheffield. Cambridgeshire is reduced to two lanes southbound. Until 21st November 2000. Gloucestershire: A40 Lansdown Rd, Cheltenham. Closed due to roadworks inbound. Diversion in place. Until 1st June. Co. Antrim: A1 Kingsway, Dumberry, roadworks, various lane restrictions. Until 20th June. Warrington: M62 Between J10 Tawstock services and J9 Sutton Coldfield. Roadworks and contraband. Until 28th April. Derbyshire: A6 Between Derby Southbound Bypass (A50) and Sharrow. Roadworks and contraband. Until 28th April. 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WAR IN THE BALKANS

Land where the fortunate sleep nine to a small tent



STEVE BOGGAN
IN TIRANA

THESE WERE Kosovo's lucky ones. There was Dren Caka, 11, in the crumbling military hospital, 19 of his family dead and a bullet hole in his arm. There was Sali Slika, lying with his wife and nine children in a derelict sports hall.

There was 70-year-old Zymryte Rexhepi, living with 11 others in a tent beside a disused swimming-pool.

And there was Dashamir Povataj, once an English teacher, sharing a cell with 30 others in an abandoned mental hospital.

The word "lucky" was their own. Such is the measure of the barbarities they endured in Kosovo that life in an Albanian tent, mental hospital, or sports hall is preferable to the dangers they faced under the Serbs. As an option, it did, after all, include the word "life".

After the mystery of no man's land in Macedonia, this is where the refugees have been coming. The numbers are out of date as soon as they are published, but 306,000 Kosovo Albanians are thought to have been given refuge in Albania so far.

Aside from Kukes, on the northern border, where more than 120,000 Kosovars crossed the frontier, Tirana has played host to most of the dispossessed.

The setting is quite surreal. On the northern edges of the Albanian capital, in the shadow of the Dajti mountains, thousands have been deposited in military tents on the site of three open-air swimming-pools.

Surrounded by grey, post-Stalinist architecture from the days of Albania's former Maoist dictator Enver Hoxha, they gather several times a day beneath an Olympic diving platform to listen to Contact Radio played through Klaxon speakers.

With the tents, the (empty) pools and the playful screams of children, there is an air here of a muddy holiday camp. But the illusion is shattered when the radio announcer reads out a list, not of the day's events, but of missing people.

In Tent 95 is Vymryte Rex-

When the time comes to sleep, most of them sit down with their blankets on wooden spectator seats and try to close their eyes, sitting bolt upright.

Some Albanian families have taken in refugees, usually friends or relatives. Others, who have taken in complete strangers, are in the minority, usually wealthy people, because Kosovo families tend to be extended - take in one and you end up taking 15.

Albania has responded magnificently to the crisis but the novelty of being the kindest nation on earth will soon wear off. There has traditionally been a degree of envy among Albanians of Kosovars, who enjoyed a higher standard of living in Yugoslavia.

It remains to be seen how welcoming they will be if forced to endure the burden for any length of time.

There is a general consensus among Western governments that a country as poor as Albania should not have to carry this burden alone," said Heather Hill, spokeswoman for the United Nations' World Food Programme.

"We made an appeal to governments for enough money to feed 650,000 people for three months - that's \$24m (£15m) - and we got it immediately.

"But if the situation were to last longer, if the people were not able to go home, then money would have to be made available to improve the infrastructure of the country."

The arguments meant nothing to another refugee, Sali Cika.

He, his wife, Shemie, and their nine children were lying with hundreds of others on camp-beds underneath the vast barrelled ceiling of a derelict volleyball hall.

There was green polythene over the broken windows and exposed sides of the hall to keep out the wind and rain, but there were no other comforts. Yet they were all laughing and playing. "I am a baker," said Mr Cika. "People will always need bread. Soon we will go home again and I will bake bread for my neighbours just like I used to."

Soldiers guard ethnic Albanian refugees at a swimming arena yesterday in Tirana, capital of Albania. EPA

WAR IN THE BALKANS

US sends in another 82 warplanes

THE UNITED States announced the immediate dispatch of 82 war planes and other hardware to the Balkans at the weekend. The Pentagon also hinted that it might call up reservists to fulfil certain functions, such as flying Air Force tankers or providing additional ground support in Albania.

Yesterday the National Security Council confirmed that "stand-by plans" had been drawn up for the use of ground troops. This was qualified by the usual disclaimer, namely that "there has not been a request from the Nato commanders, and the President has no intention of introducing them". The disclosure was a reply to

critics who had said that if the US really had no plans for ground troops, then this was a serious oversight.

President Bill Clinton stayed out of the limelight, creating the impression – through a radio address devoted to the pensions and the health system – that he was seeking a large increase in alliance airpower.

But with Congress returning today from its Easter recess and a cross-party consensus building for the US to send ground troops into Kosovo, he is likely to face demands to end Nato's reliance on air power and commit American troops.

The new deployments, announced by the Pentagon late

on Saturday, bring the number of US planes taking part in the Nato operation to almost 500 – 85 per cent of the total.

The additional planes were made available at the express request of Nato's Commander-in-Chief, General Wesley Clark, who disclosed at the end of last week that he was seeking a large increase in alliance airpower.

But the Pentagon's announcement may also help to convince the newly hawkish Congress that the US is not falling down on its duty.

The new planes include another 24 F-16 fighters, another four A-10 anti-tank planes, and another six radar-jamming EA-6B Prowlers. The majority will be

PENTAGON STRATEGY

BY MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

transport planes and tankers for mid-air refuelling.

The composition of the new contingent adds credibility to reports that Nato is preparing for round-the-clock bombing raids on Yugoslav targets. It suggests the alliance may be preparing to penetrate deeper into Serbian territory, while implicitly acknowledging that Nato's assessment of its task has shifted considerably since the first air strikes more than two weeks ago.

The first elements arrived in Tirana, Albania, yesterday for

placed under US control at the end of last week. Tirana airport is being expanded and re-equipped to accommodate 24-hour take-offs and landings, and the 5,000 troops that will accompany the Apaches will be based there.

Moreover, at least one and possibly two big new refugee camps are to be established in the region, under Nato's Allied Harbour operation.

While Albania is outside Nato and has no claim to join in the near future, it is rapidly becoming a launching pad for the alliance operation against neighbouring Serbia and especially the US contribution to it. Albania's air space was

face-to-face meeting with her Russian counterpart, Igor Ivanov, since the Kosovo crisis began.

This is the first high-level meeting since the Russian Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, dramatically cancelled his planned visit to Washington after being informed that Nato would not refrain from air strikes until he left.

Yesterday, Mr Ivanov smoothed the way for the meeting by doing his best to calm fears aroused by some inflammatory language from leaders of the Russian Duma last week. Calling for the resumption of "political dialogue", he told a Spanish newspaper: "Russia

is not going to be the country that unleashes the Third World War or any other military conflict of an international nature."

While the possibility that reservists could be called up sent a frisson of anxiety around Washington, the Pentagon insisted that for the time being there were sufficient volunteers to fill any gaps. Military analysts noted, however, that warnings of shortages – whether of manpower or materiel – were not without their uses for the Pentagon, which has argued that its combat readiness has been dangerously impaired by successive budget cuts since the end of the Cold War.



Young recruits to the Kosovo Liberation Army heading for a camp in northern Albania to be trained to fight Serbian forces in Kosovo
Tim Brakemeier/EPA

KLA engages in fierce fighting with Serb army

DAYS AFTER its ceasefire came into effect, the Yugoslav army is fighting fierce battles with Kosovo guerrillas and shelling groups of civilian refugees. Western monitors in contact with the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) say:

They describe a situation in which fugitives, guided and protected by KLA soldiers, are being fired upon by Serb tanks and artillery as they camp out on snowy hillsides.

Officials of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) who are in contact with KLA commanders via satellite telephone, say that the Serbs' artillery bombardment has continued in the KLA-held Pagarusa valley, despite a reported attack by Nato forces on Serb positions.

They also believe that the KLA has changed its tactics instead of trying to defend villages from the Serbs, it is concentrating on hit-and-run guerrilla attacks against the Yugoslav army, while attempting to pro-

tect the huge numbers of displaced Albanians trapped in the hills.

Over the past 10 days, the KLA has started operating in groups of four to six men and ambushing armoured columns with shoulder-fired RPG-7 rocket launchers.

Against the Serbs' largest tanks they have had little success, but they have succeeded in depriving cavalry units of their infantry support. "The Serbs used to say that it would take them four days to get rid of the KLA," a British member of the OSCE said. "Now they've been going for three weeks."

William Walker, head of the OSCE verification mission said that the ethnic Albanian fighters have no option but to withdraw from villages when they come under attack. "The KLA pull out of villages and let them be burned rather than stay to defend them," he said.

"That shows what KLA capabilities are now. They've run out of us how they're running out of

ammunition and the various necessities of life. They're in bad shape, short term."

But Mr Walker says that the number of fighters is on the rise. "Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic has been the best recruiting sergeant the KLA could have hoped for. With a lot of young Kosovo Albanian men and women in the refugee camps who lost a parent or relative or saw their village burn, I would be very surprised not to see a groundswell of KLA support here."

New recruits are coming from the newly dispersed refugees as well from within Albania with young men and women wanting to help their relatives across the border.

The British OSCE member said that in spite of their severe situation vis-à-vis the Serbs, the guerrillas had improved their military effectiveness. "Last

summer they were seen as a complete mess, not much more than a peasant army," he said. "Since then they've developed a command structure."

Exact numbers are difficult to determine but military analysts in Skopje estimate that the KLA has between 8,000 and 12,000 fighters, who fall into three different types. A few hundred are well-trained professionals, mostly former members of the Yugoslav army. A larger group of them are training in secret camps, most of which are in Albania. The rest are fighting in the hills of Kosovo.

The rebel army's greatest lack is not manpower, but ammunition. OSCE officials believe that only small amounts of ammunition are making it over the border from Albania. The KLA's arsenal consists, in effect, of light arms and a small number

of RPG anti-tank weapons and Kalashnikov rounds which they have captured from Serb units.

But it is the heavy stuff that the KLA say that they need and they say if these are given there will be no need for Nato troops. One of its most senior commanders, Xhelad Gashi, who is in regular contact with United States diplomats in Albania, said: "We do not need Nato troops, we need anti-tank weapons. We can then take the offensive and do the job ourselves."

Although the West denies it is arming the KLA, the rebel army acts as Nato's eyes and ears in Kosovo. Defence sources say that they are providing crucial aid to the alliance, acting as spotters on the ground enabling allied aircraft to target and hit Yugoslav army armour and heavy guns.

And the guerrilla organisation is being presented by the West as a crucial player in Kosovo. At yesterday's briefing in London at the Ministry of Defence, one of the first things mentioned by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, was a phone call he had received from Hashim Thaci, the KLA commander in Kosovo. This was just the latest mention of the organisation in glowing terms among government ministers in London, Washington and Brussels.

Contacts are taking place on regular and amicable basis between the KLA and American and Nato officials. KLA representatives can now be found in European capitals busy portraying the organisation as a serious political party. One KLA official said: "We are the real voice of Kosovo. When Kosovo is liberated we shall be leading the country. There is no alternative and we feel Nato is trying to realise that. What we need now are the arms."

There is, however, an embarrassing quandary for the West. Police forces across Europe accuse sections of the KLA of being involved in serious illegalities, with much of their funding coming from drugs. Europol, the European police authority, is preparing a report on the KLA's narcotics connection after collating intelligence reports from Scandinavia, Switzerland and Germany. The US State Department has also spoken of the KLA's drug links.

Then there is the question of

TIMETABLE DAYS 18 & 19

Saturday 10 April
8am: Nato attacks targets around Pristina.
9am: Yugoslavia reopens border with Macedonia.

11am: UN says it wants refugees to stay in the region.

2.30pm: Powerful explosions heard in southern Serbian towns of Nis and Kraljevo.

4pm: UK says aircraft carrier *Invincible* is going to Adriatic. US orders in 82 more planes.

5pm: Missiles hit Pristina airport and nearby Urossevac. Serbs say they destroyed third missile near Pristina.

6pm: Serb forces and KLA exchange gunfire near Albanian border.

8pm: Thousands of refugees enter Albania.

Sunday 11 April
1am: Nato planes drop 2.5 million leaflets explaining why Serbia is under attack.

10.30am: Explosions in Pristina.

Noon: Albania says it will accept more Nato troops on its territory.

2pm: One of two Australian aid workers who disappeared in Serbia is shown on TV and quoted as apologising for Nato actions.

2.30pm: Serbs say a three-year-old girl, her father and another civilian were killed overnight at Mirovac.

4pm: Serbs say they repelled incursion into Kosovo from Albania on Saturday night.

4.15pm: Nato says aerial photograph may show fresh mass graves at Orahovac, Kosovo.

4.30pm: US says NATO has stand-by plans to use ground troops, but insist that air campaign will be sufficient.

5pm: Serbs say unknown gunmen killed newspaper owner Slavko Curuvija, a critic of Slobodan Milosevic.

6.05pm: Two civilians reported killed in Albania by Serb mortar attack.

Russia fumes as Hungary stops its convoy of aid

INTERNATIONAL TENSION

BY HELEN WOMACK in Moscow

The lorries were stopped at the border between Ukraine and Hungary. The Hungarian customs objected to the fact that some of the vehicles were armour-plated, which could give them a dual civilian or military purpose. The Russian charity workers said the armour plating was to protect them on roads where they could be shot at.

A reporter for the independent Russian NTV channel said that every time the drivers tried to satisfy the Hungarians, they came up with new bureaucratic pretexts to stop the convoy. Similar delays have arisen in Russia, where humanitarian aid sent from the West over the Balkans crisis.

Although Russia is poor enough to be receiving humanitarian aid from the West, Moscow last week found stocks of food, medicine and blankets for Yugoslavia. Orthodox priests blessed the convoy of white-painted lorries, which were supposed to arrive in Belgrade in time for Easter, celebrated this weekend by Russians and Serbs alike. However, the icon-decked convoy was also to deliver aid to Muslim Albanian refugees in a signal from Moscow that it cared about both sides in the ethnic and religious conflict.

The Russians feel their aid has been thrown back in their faces. The NTV reporter captured another undertone of Russian annoyance when he

said there had never been problems on the road before Hungary, once a member of the Warsaw Pact, joined the Nato alliance.

The war in Yugoslavia has brought relations between Russia and the West to their lowest point since the end of the Cold War. Opinion polls show that 92 per cent of Russians oppose Nato's action. There is a strong element of hurt national pride and Slav solidarity with the Serbs. But many Russians also genuinely feel that bombing is the wrong way to solve delicate ethnic problems in the Balkans and that their opinions are being disregarded.

President Boris Yeltsin, under increasing pressure from Communists and nationalists at home, is trying to keep Russia out of the war. Last week, scare stories that Russia was rearming its nuclear missiles on Nato members were



Yeltsin: Trying to keep Russia out of war

denied and it seemed unlikely that a suggested union between Russia, Belarus and Yugoslavia would actually get off the ground.

However, the longer the war goes on, the greater the danger that Russia could be sucked in. If the aid convoy does enter Yugoslavia, Nato bombers must be careful that no stray rocket accidentally hits it.

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	PREVIOUS AER%	GROSS%	NET%	NEW AER%	GROSS%	NET%
Gold Service and Asset Management Service Current Accounts	1.00	1.00	0.80	0.75	0.75	0.60
£50,000+	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.25	0.25	0.20
£10,000+	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.08
Classic Account and Graduate Service	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.08
£1+						
Student Account	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.08
£1+						
Lloyds Bank Account for Under 19s	2.02	2.00	1.60	1.76	1.75	1.40
£1+						
High Interest Cheque Account	1.00	1.00	0.80	0.75	0.75	0.60
£50,000+	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.25	0.25	0.20
£10,000+	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.08
Choice Account	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.08
£1+						
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'Elizabeth' beats 'Shakespeare' to win five Baftas



Cate Blanchett, star of 'Elizabeth', won Bafta's Best Actress award yesterday. The film took four other awards

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE repeated its Oscar triumph last night, winning Best Film at the Bafta Awards. However, Gwyneth Paltrow, who attended the ceremony, was beaten to Best Actress by the star of *Elizabeth*, Cate Blanchett.

Elizabeth, which did not win any of the main prizes in last month's Oscars, won five awards yesterday - more than any other film. Key prizes also went to *Shakespeare in Love*, with Judi Dench repeating her Oscar triumph as Best Supporting Actress for her eight minutes on screen as Queen Elizabeth. Geoffrey Rush, who missed out at the Oscars, won Best Supporting Actor.

Dame Judi could not receive her award as she is starring on Broadway in David Hare's play *Amy's View*. But a number of British stars including Lynn Redgrave, Tim Roth, Hugh Grant, Pierce Brosnan and John Hurt attended the awards ceremony in Islington, north London.

THE SCREEN WINNERS

Film: *Shakespeare in Love*
Director: Peter Weir
The Truman Show
Screenplay: Andrew Niccol, *The Truman Show*
Screenplay (Adapted): Elaine May, *Primary Colors*
Actress: Cate Blanchett, *Elizabeth*
Actor: Roberto Benigni, *Life is Beautiful*
Supporting Actress: Judi Dench, *Shakespeare in Love*
Supporting Actor: Geoffrey Rush, *Shakespeare in Love*
Alexander Korda award for outstanding film: *Elizabeth*
Foreign Film: Central do Brasil
Music: Elizabeth Newcomer, *Richard*

Best Special Effects categories:
The British Academy gave more recognition than the Oscars to *The Truman Show*, which won three awards, including Best Director.

Two British films that

missed out were *Hilary and Jackie*, the Jacqueline Du Pre

biopic, and *Little Voice* starring Michael Caine, Jane Horrocks and Brenda Blethyn. Another homegrown movie received a consolation prize: *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*, won the Orange-sponsored audience award for the most popular film in a nationwide survey of cinema audiences.

The Michael Balcon Award for Outstanding British Contribution to Film went to Michael Kuhn, former head of Polygram Film Entertainment.

The emotional high spot came when 67-year-old Elizabeth Taylor received a Lifetime Achievement Fellowship.

She said that her Bafta meant as much to her as an Oscar - a reaction that will delight the British film industry which has long been trying to elevate the Baftas to the status of the Oscars.

Bafta chairman Tim Angel said: "With a career spanning six decades, Elizabeth Taylor is one of the world's most respected and best-loved actresses. She is truly deserving of this accolade".

Biotech experts to lose GM role

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

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The overhaul of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (Acre) will see more "pro-green" representatives placed on it to ensure that there is a more even balance of opinion," he said.

"There is a general view that some of the people were rather too close to the industry and rather too pro-GM. As a government, we are not taking sides but we do want a better balance of opinion," he said.

"This is not an ideological clear-out, but the changes in membership of the committee allow us the ideal opportunity to respond to public concerns on the issue."

Mr Meacher added that he would also extend the remit of the committee to include the effects of the indirect as well as the direct impacts of GM crops on the environment, including influences on other GM strains.

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Some ministers were also astonished that another committee member, Nigel Poole, works for Zeneca Seeds, part of the multinational biotech company that wants to promote GM crops across the globe.

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Instead, people with expertise in farmland systems, wildlife biodiversity and ecological practice will be encouraged to apply for membership of the committee.

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The overhaul of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (Acre) will see more "pro-green" representatives placed on it to ensure that there is a more even balance of opinion," he said.

"There is a general view that some of the people were rather too close to the industry and rather too pro-GM. As a government, we are not taking sides but we do want a better balance of opinion," he said.

IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW



'Sometimes we do all get on, but when people get stressed, everything falls apart'

LEONA ON THE PROBLEMS WITH MEN IN THIS STUDENT LIFE

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, IAN JACK, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, BRIAN VINER,
PHILIP HENSHER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITHAM SMITH



■ HEALTH
WHY SULKING CAN BE A SERIOUS PROBLEM
■ PLUS ARTS AND MEDIA

Ulster worst for threat to lawyers

MORE LAWYERS in Northern Ireland were the victims of death threats and harassment than in any other part of the European Union, according to an international report into the infringement of lawyers' human rights.

The study, by the International Commission of Jurists based in Geneva and presented to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, found that 40 lawyers working in Northern Ireland had complained of intimidation last year. The number included the case of the solicitor Rosemary Nelson who was murdered in a car bomb attack last month. Focusing on Mrs Nelson's death the ICJ called on the Government to order a judicial inquiry into the "wider issue of intimidation of defence lawyers by police in Northern Ireland".

The ICJ investigators identi-

BY ROBERT VERKAIK
Legal Affairs Correspondent

tified 446 cases worldwide where lawyers had been murdered, assaulted, intimidated or disappeared. Turkey, with 93 cases, was the only country in Europe to have a worse record for harassing lawyers than Northern Ireland.

Mona Rishmawi, the ICJ's director of the Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, said she met Rosemary Nelson last year while investigating threats and intimidation faced by lawyers in the province.

"She was on the top of our list because she knew something would happen to her," said Ms Rishmawi. Of the 40 lawyers known to have been the subject of harassment in Northern Ireland, Mrs Nelson was the only

one who was prepared to go public with her complaints, said Ms Rishmawi. An investigation into Mrs Nelson's death is being led by Kent police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Typically, the ICJ claimed, many lawyers had received death threats and were the target of intimidation. Ms Rishmawi said: "The RUC want to get confessions out of them [the suspects] and try pushing them to confess by undermining the lawyer. They feel the lawyer is an obstacle."

While the ICJ welcomed Britain's decision to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into national law through the Human Rights Act, Ms Rishmawi said she was "extremely worried" about the Nelson case and that of another solicitor, Patrick Finucane, who was shot dead in front of his wife and three children in 1989. No one has been tried for his murder.

A spokesman for the Law Society of Northern Ireland said it would bring all complaints to the attention of the RUC Chief Constable, Ronnie Flanagan.

The ICJ report also named Colombia, Brazil, Tunisia, Burma and Turkey as having the worst records for the intimidation and violent treatment of lawyers.

The number of lawyers killed in the countries investigated by the ICJ jumped from 36 in 1997 to 49 last year.

A total of 230 lawyers were arrested, prosecuted or tortured. 73 were physically attacked, 67 were verbally threatened and 24 were professionally obstructed or sanctioned.

Unionists reject army bases offer

ATTEMPTS TO break the deadlock over arms decommissioning in Northern Ireland, by offering to close army bases in return for a weapons handover by the IRA, were rejected by the Ulster Unionists yesterday.

British government sources had indicated over the weekend that the impasse could be bridged by reducing the number of "legally held" guns in the province.

However, David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), said that he firmly rejected the idea that the police

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

or Army should give up weapons as part of the "collective act of reconciliation" suggested in the Hillsborough Declaration, agreed by the UK and Irish governments on 1 April. "There is absolutely no equivalent between arms held by the Army and police and those held by illegal organisations," he said.

Mr Trimble did, however, indicate he recognised that recent IRA statements on

decommissioning had moved significantly on the issue, by not repeating previous pledges "never" to hand over any arms.

Crucially, the First Minister said he was more concerned at reports that loyalist paramilitaries are refusing to decommission. "I have to question their motives," he said.

But Mr Trimble repeated yesterday that his party will not share power with Sinn Fein unless the IRA made a "credible start" to decommissioning first.

He said he was looking forward to trying to make progress, but the UUP wanted clarification on the exact meaning of the Hillsborough Declaration before endorsing or rejecting it.

Four members of the 28-strong UUP Assembly team - Bill Armstrong, Pauline Armitage, Roy Beggs Jr. and Derek Hussey - have already publicly expressed their concerns over the Declaration.

With the Assembly currently balanced at 29-29 between those in favour and against, Mr Trimble cannot afford to lose their support.



Special Constable Dave Gunn looking over the crowds at Beaulieu boat jumble, Hampshire, where buyers could pick up this 1905 periscope. Russell Sach

No jihad on Blair, says Murdoch

BY PAUL WAUGH

RUPERT MURDOCH denied his papers would wage a "jihad" on the Government for deciding to block BSkyB's £623m bid for Manchester United, as the Tories seized on evidence that ministers tried to influence the outcome.

"I'm disappointed but we're not going to start a jihad on the Government or anything like that," Mr Murdoch said yesterday. The deal was scuppered on Friday when Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said it would give BSkyB an unfair advantage in future televised sports rights negotiations. He accepted the opinion of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) that it could also have "damaged ... British football". He said he made his decision in his "quasi-judicial" capacity as secretary of state; it was guided strictly by the terms of the case and not any external political factors.

But it emerged the Government tried to influence the MMC when the Department of Culture, Media and Sport submitted evidence on the takeover. Chris Smith, secretary of state, sent a letter, and representations were made to Peter Mandelson, Mr Byers' predecessor, sources said.

The department said it was reflecting views of the football lobby. But John Redwood, Tory trade and industry spokesman, said the disclosure showed government claims of impartiality were hollow.

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Officials study affair dossier from Woodhead's ex-wife

THE GOVERNMENT confirmed yesterday that it was examining a legal dossier of evidence about claims that the Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead, had an affair with a pupil while he was a teacher at her school.

Mr Woodhead's former wife, Cathy, submitted a series of documents to the Department for Education and Employment last week. The move follows her claims last month that Mr Woodhead had admitted to having an affair with a sixth-form pupil, Amanda Johnston, while he was a teacher at Gordano School near Bristol during the

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

Seventies, something that Mr Woodhead strongly denies.

Former colleagues of the chief inspector have claimed that the affair was common knowledge at the school. But Mr Woodhead and Ms Johnston have made sworn statements that their relationship started only after both had left the school.

Mrs Woodhead said yesterday that she was considering legal action if the department did not initiate an investigation into her former husband's con-

duct. She said that in denying her version of events towards the end of their marriage, Mr Woodhead was calling her a liar.

"If suing Chris Woodhead is what it would take to get to the truth, I'm prepared to contemplate it," she said.

The divorce papers are said to include references to an affair between Mr Woodhead and a pupil. Mr Woodhead is said to have signed a statement saying that he did "not wish to disclose the name of the lady in question for professional reasons".

Yesterday the department said the statement did not form

part of the dossier it had received from Mrs Woodhead. A spokeswoman said: "Our initial examination there is nothing in the details of the papers we have which substantiate the story. We were sent some papers by Mrs Woodhead's lawyers last week and we are looking at those."

"We are not conducting an investigation... If people do have information they think we should have, they are more than welcome to send it in." Mr Woodhead said: "I have no comment to make on what my former wife wants to do. She must make up her own mind to

do what she wants to do for herself."

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said that so far, he had been made aware of no evidence "that changes the situation or the position of Chris Woodhead. Angry and distraught recollections or notes made by a solicitor in the autumn of 1976 do not constitute a case for action or anything that could threaten Chris Woodhead's job," he said.

Mr Woodhead has been at the centre of controversy since *The Independent* revealed earlier this year that he had told trainee teachers that relationships between pupils could be "educative and experiential". Under the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill passing through the Commons, teachers who have relationships with pupils aged 16 or 17 at their school face up to two years in jail.

■ Figures due out today will counter criticism of the Government's class-size initiative. David Blunkett said they will show continued progress towards the pledge to cut infant classes to 30, without a reduction in parental choice.

Eagle owls invade Britain

BY BRIAN UNWIN
AND LINUS GREGORIADIS

ONE OF continental Europe's fiercest birds of prey, capable of carrying off dogs, cats, wild boar and even deer, is now breeding in Britain.

The eagle owl, with its six-foot wingspan, is one of more than a score of bird species establishing themselves in the wild after escaping from collections of exotic avifauna. An expert warned yesterday that some of them could become pests, or pose serious problems for other wildlife.

Top of the list is the eagle owl. There is nothing in British bird life quite like *Bubo bubo*, whose regular habitat is rugged hill or mountain country in Europe, north Africa and Asia. They are huge barrel-shaped brown birds, standing over 2ft high with prominent feather tufts giving them a horned appearance. They hunt by ambushing passing prey or pouncing on birds – as big as eider ducks. Fish can be taken by plunge-diving or hovering.

Successful breeding of the birds has occurred for the past two years on a secluded army training range near Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire.

"Eagle owls occur widely in captivity in Britain," said Dr Malcolm Ogilvie, secretary of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. "They seem to be quite easy to keep in this state; they breed quite well, apparently, and, unfortunately, they also seem to be good at escaping."

Dr Ogilvie added: "There is no evidence they have ever lived naturally in Britain and if they became established



An avifauna expert has warned that the eagle owl could become a nuisance after escaping from captivity in Britain

Geoff Du Feu

EXOTIC BIRDS GONE NATIVE



Rose-ringed parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*): Native to Africa and India, was added to British List in 1983 after feral breeding in London's outer suburbs.



Snow goose (*Anser caerulescens*): Nests in Arctic winters in US, with a few straying across the Atlantic to Europe. Two pairs bred on the Scottish island of Coll and up to 50 have been recorded there and on neighbouring Mull.



Wood duck (*Aix sponsa*): Wild population mainly in east US, Canada. Attempts to naturalise in Britain made in 1870s; free-flying birds released in Surrey in late 1960s. The report says 24 pairs were found in Kent in 1996.

Monkey tree frog warning to pet owners

BY CLARE GARNER

THE RSPCA has issued a warning over the latest pet craze in Britain – owning a chacoan monkey tree frog. The charity said there was a disturbing increase in the number of exotic animals being kept as pets – an estimated one million Britons now own pet reptiles.

"Our inspectors are now almost as likely to be called out to a case involving a python or iguana as they are to one involving a cat or dog," an RSPCA spokesman said. "The public must think more carefully before

buying exotic pets. Some are just not suitable to be kept as pets and others need special heating, lighting or housing."

He warned that they could also need expensive veterinary care.

The monkey frog comes

from northern Argentina and Paraguay, and its natural habi-

tat is desert. It must be fed live insects, such as three or four crickets two or three times a week, and have its accommodation kept at 30°C to 35°C.

Its movements are slow and deliberate, even when they are pursuing live insect prey. "They will stay in almost

any position in which you care to place them. They simply look at you as you pick them up, rarely making any attempt to evade capture," said John Coote, of Nottingham, who bought two frogs last year for £165 each from a breeder in southern California.

NOTICE OF VARIATION OF INTEREST RATES

With effect from 9 April 1999 the following interest rates will apply on the accounts listed below.

	60 DAY SAVINGS ACCOUNT	Previous Gross* Rate p.a.	New Gross* Rate p.a.	New AER** p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)	£50,000	5.30%	5.05%	5.05%	4.04%
	£25,000	5.05%	4.80%	4.80%	3.84%
	£10,000	4.70%	4.45%	4.45%	3.56%
	£5,000	4.15%	3.90%	3.90%	3.12%
	£500	3.80%	3.55%	3.55%	2.84%
	£1	3.50%	3.25%	3.25%	2.60%
	INSTANT ACCESS SAVINGS ACCOUNT				
(Interest paid annually)	£50,000	3.00%	2.75%	2.75%	2.20%
	£25,000	2.75%	2.50%	2.50%	2.00%
	£10,000	2.30%	2.05%	2.05%	1.64%
	£5,000	2.05%	1.80%	1.80%	1.44%
	£2,000	1.85%	1.60%	1.60%	1.28%
	£500	1.75%	1.50%	1.50%	1.20%
	£1	0.70%	0.70%	0.70%	0.56%
	ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS				
TESSA		4.35%	4.10%	3.86%+	
TESSA 2		6.601	6.10%	5.80%	5.25%+
		£1	5.85%	5.55%	

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Interest is not compounded. The AER assumes that the maximum balance permitted by the instant account is deposited at the current opportunity interest rates.

TSB Current Account Interest Rates for Personal Customers

These rates of interest apply with effect from start of business on 12th April 1999

	PREVIOUS	NEW
Interest Cheque Account	AER% GROSS% NET%	AER% GROSS% NET%
£1+	0.10 0.10 0.08	0.10 0.10 0.08
Select Account	0.10 0.10 0.08	0.10 0.10 0.08
Student Account	0.10 0.10 0.08	0.10 0.10 0.08
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Cheap flights end 75 miles out of town

ADVERTISING WATCHDOGS are to investigate complaints about an airline for flying to airports miles away from the advertised destination.

Ryanair's service from Stansted to Frankfurt, which starts on 22 April, lands at Hahn – a former United States air force base 75 miles from the city. Passengers will then have to take a 75-minute coach ride to Frankfurt or hail a taxi to the nearest railway station 25 miles away for a connecting train.

Ryanair has been repeatedly condemned for similar services. Three complaints have already been upheld by the Advertising Standards Authority.

The ASA confirmed yesterday it was likely to investigate the latest service. It has already received a telephone complaint and will act once it has written confirmation. "Ryanair are responsible for most of the problems in the flight industry on misnaming of airports," ASA spokesman Steve Ballinger said.

The previously upheld complaints relate to Ryanair listing Venice as a destination for flights that land at Treviso 15 miles away, flights advertised for Oslo that landed 50 miles away at Torp airport, and a Stockholm service that flew to Skavsta, 80 miles away.

Ryanair's marketing director, Tim Jeans, defended the advertisement for the latest service. He said that passengers would be told the airport details before they confirmed their booking. Although Stockholm, Oslo, Frankfurt and Venice all have nearer airports, they are designated by the International Air Transport Association as city airports, he said.

He added: "We have taken issue with ASA because we believe we are being discriminated against because those airports are officially designated as airports for that city."

He said the lower costs of operating from little-used small airports allowed Ryanair to offer a fare of £69.99 to Hahn – a fraction of the price charged by the major carriers. Hahn is likely to become an increasingly popular destination as Frankfurt airport is officially full up, Mr Jeans added.

But Mr Ballinger said: "We think it is for the ASA to interpret the advert and not the advertiser, who has a vested interest."

The issue highlights the growth in popularity of small airports, which are cheaper and less congested than their bigger rivals. Many European cities, including Paris, Düsseldorf, Rome and Milan, have secondary airports.

Deregulation has allowed smaller operators to break monopolies held by the European state airlines but high charges at the traditional airports forced them to look elsewhere.

Congestion at the London airports Heathrow and Gatwick prompted budget airlines such as

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

British Airways' Go, Ryanair, Debonair and easyJet to use Stansted or Luton. Other secondary airports include Prestwick, 30 miles from Glasgow, and Liverpool, 30 miles from the major airport at Manchester.

Debonair, which flies from Luton to Paris Pontoise, 22 miles north of the city, claimed it took only 30 minutes by train to reach the centre and was a more pleasant experience than passing through Charles de Gaulle.

EasyJet, which uses Luton and Liverpool, said it could offer cheaper fares because it saved on landing and handling charges, and because aircraft could be turned around more quickly. The company's spokesman, James Rothnie, said: "We can have a Luton-based Boeing 737 flying for 12 hours, while at Heathrow it would fly for seven hours, because of the fast turnaround times between landing and take-off."

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) has been criticised by the Advertising Standards Authority over claims in an anti-foxhunting advertisement. The authority upheld three complaints by the Countryside Alliance, the Cattistock Hunt and members of the public about the advertisement, which appeared in the national press and showed a photograph of a pack of hounds ripping a fox apart under the headline "RIP".

The ASA said in its monthly report that IFAW's accompanying claim that "one fox that died this way was found with lungs full of soil" was "an exaggeration" that did not have enough evidence to support it.

It asked that in future such claims should not be repeated unless they had full supporting evidence.



Emily Crowhurst with a picture of her father

New Zealand Herald



Private Hughes cast a message to his wife into the sea

1914 message in bottle found

THE FINAL words written by a soldier who died 85 years ago

have turned up in a bottle in the Thames estuary, and the fisherman who made the discovery has been asked to return the letter to the soldier's family.

Twelve days before he was killed in the First World War,

Private Thomas Hughes wrote his wife, Elizabeth, the message: "Ta ta my sweet for the present, your hubby", which he placed in a bottle and cast into the sea. The note remained unopened until Steve Gowan scooped it up in his net off the Essex coast.

Mrs Crowhurst was two years old when she last saw her father as he headed off to battle with the Durham Light Infantry in 1914. She still wears his war medals at military commemorations.

Mrs Crowhurst's daughter, Elizabeth Kennedy, said: "It is too late for the letter to be opened by the person it was intended for, but the next best thing is for it to be handed to his daughter."

"It's incredible that something lying on the seabed for almost a century has survived intact for so long."

BY CHRIS RYAN

my life trying to find out more about him," she said yesterday. "I understand the fisherman is keen to keep the letter and the bottle as a souvenir, but it would mean so much to me to have it."

Mrs Crowhurst was two years old when she last saw her father as he headed off to battle with the Durham Light Infantry in 1914. She still wears his war medals at military commemorations.

Mrs Crowhurst's daughter, Elizabeth Kennedy, said: "It is too late for the letter to be opened by the person it was intended for, but the next best thing is for it to be handed to his daughter."

"It's incredible that something lying on the seabed for almost a century has survived intact for so long."

Psychological Society Conference

CD-Rom 'is better than a therapist'

BY CHERRY NORTON
Health Correspondent

A lot of information, they understood more about their condition and their self-esteem improved."

Most of the 26 people who took part in the study had been ill for over eight years and had seen a psychologist. The trial involved three 40-minute sessions spread over three weeks. Patients then went away with their self-help sheets and were assessed six months later.

Treatment sessions began with a video clip of the actor James MacPherson – who stars on TV in *Fogger* – introducing the system and talking about how stress and anxiety is part of everyone's life. Patients did sessions alone, responding to the computer's voice by touching the screen.

In the first session patients

were assessed for the severity of their condition. They were asked about panic attacks, phobias and insomnia. If anxiety levels were low, a computer voice told them their levels were normal and encouraged

them to stop the programme.

Patients who showed suicidal tendencies were automatically reported by the computer to the clinical psychology team. When the CD is available for use at home the computer will tell those with suicidal tendencies to book an appointment with their doctor immediately.

The second two sessions of the trial covered relaxation techniques, controlling stressful thoughts and how to deal with panic attacks, as well as hints on getting a good night's sleep and how to avoid worrying about future events.

One in six adults in the UK suffers from severe depression but 95 per cent of patients only ever see their GP. Dr White believes computer treatment could reach many people and cut the use of anti-depressants.

He says: "We would like to get to a situation where if someone goes to the GP for the first time and says they are feeling depressed, instead of the GP giving them anti-depressants they might be able to say there are other treatments and give them a CD-Rom."

In the first session patients were assessed for the severity of their condition. They were asked about panic attacks, phobias and insomnia. If anxiety levels were low, a computer voice told them their levels were normal and encouraged

Kennel 'feng shui' helps stray dogs find a home

BY CHERRY NORTON

do not have a problem finding someone to take them home but many of the dogs that end up in shelters are not so attractive. Black mongrels and rottweilers tend to stay in the shelter for much longer," Dr Wells said.

The research presented yesterday at the conference showed that the dogs' chances of finding a permanent home improved when their bed was put at the front of the cage and when they were given a toy.

Potential owners are more likely to buy a dog that looks lively and fun than one who is moping at the back of his cage," said Deborah Wells, of Queen's University, Belfast, who conducted the study.

"Attractive dogs such as

labradors and border collies

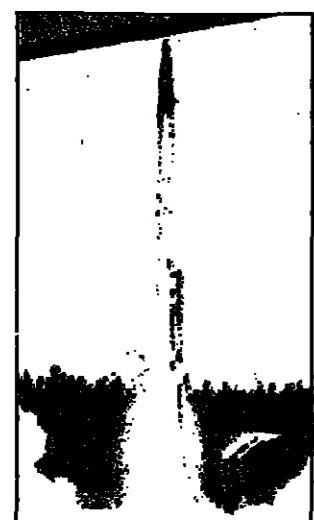
have made a more favourable impression, which has increased the number of dogs that have been purchased from rescue shelters."

TSB Savings Interest Rates for Personal Customers

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	ANNUAL			MONTHLY				
	PREVIOUS AER/GROSS %	NEW AER/GROSS %	NEW NET %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS GROSS %	NEW AER %	NEW GROSS %	NEW NET %
90 Day Notice Account*								
£100,000+	5.05	4.80	3.84	4.80	4.70	4.55	4.46	3.57
£50,000+	4.65	4.40	3.62	4.40	4.31	4.15	4.07	3.26
£25,000+	4.30	4.05	3.24	4.05	3.98	3.80	3.74	2.99
£10,000+	3.90	3.65	2.92	3.65	3.59	3.40	3.35	2.68
60 Day Notice Account*								
£100,000+	4.25	4.00	3.20	3.25	3.20	3.00	2.96	2.37
£25,000+	3.95	3.70	2.96	2.95	2.91	2.70	2.67	2.13
£10,000+	3.65	3.40	2.72	2.65	2.62	2.40	2.37	1.90
£5,000+	2.60	2.35	1.88	1.60	1.59	1.35	1.34	1.07
£500+	2.10	1.85	1.48	1.15	1.14	0.85	0.85	0.68
Flexible Savings Account								
£10,000+	2.10	1.85	1.48	1.85	1.83	1.60	1.59	1.27
£5,000+	1.60	1.35	1.08	1.35	1.34	1.10	1.09	0.88
£2,500+	1.40	1.10	0.88	1.15	1.14	0.85	0.85	0.68
Below £250	0.20	0.20	0.16	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.16
Instant Gold Savings Account*								
£50,000+	4.50	4.15	3.32	4.25	4.18	3.90	3.84	3.08
£25,000+	4.00	3.65	2.92	3.75	3.70	3.40	3.36	2.69
£10,000+	3.65	3.30	2.64	3.40	3.36	3.05	3.02	2.41
£2,500+	3.25	3.00	2.40	3.00	2.97	2.75	2.72	2.18
QUARTERLY								
ANNUAL			QUARTERLY			QUARTERLY		
PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS GROSS %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS GROSS %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS GROSS %	NEW AER %
£50,000+	4.25	4.18	3.90	3.75	3.70	3.40	3.36	3.08
£25,000+	3.75	3.70	3.40	3.40	3.36	3.05	3.02	2.41
£10,000+	3.40	3.36	3.05	3.40	3.36	3.05	3.02	2.41
£2,500+	3.00	2.97	2.75	3.00	2.97	2.75	2.72	2.18
Young Savers Accounts								
£1+	2.78	2.75	2.52	2.50	2.50	2.00	2.00	2.00
MINI CASH ISA**								
Effective from 14th April 1999								
£3,000+	5.88	6.00	5.63	5.75	5.88	6.00	5.63	5.75
£1,000+	5.38	5.50	5.13	5.25	5.38	5.50	5.13	

Pakistan plans response to missile test



The Agni-II missile being launched yesterday

BREAKING A five-year moratorium yesterday, India successfully launched its second intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) Agni-II from a new test site of Orissa on the west coast. The 60ft-long missile, which is designed to carry a nuclear payload and can reach any part of Pakistan and deep inside China, was fired at 9.47am local time and travelled 1,200 miles before plunging into the Bay of Bengal.

Everything about yesterday's launch was controversial – even the new testing site, which is close to the nesting ground of hundreds of thousands of olive ridley turtles. Environmentalists have protested bitterly about testing at such

BY PETER POPHAM
in Delhi

a sensitive spot, but to no avail.

In adherence to the Lahore Accord signed by the Indian and Pakistani prime ministers in February, India gave Pakistan advance notice of the test. The Indian Defence Minister, George Fernandes, said that the launch of the missile would make India immune to any external threats.

But the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Sartaj Aziz, said the test had "threatened [Pakistan's] security and endangered the fragile security balance in the region". Agni-II introduces a new weapon system in the region, he said.

which was a matter of "deep concern. We are disappointed and concerned," he said. "We had decided on restraint. But now Pakistan will have to examine its options on how to respond." Analysts believe it is almost certain that Pakistan will answer India's move by testing its own Shaheen missile.

American officials also voiced their disappointment. A spokesman at the US embassy in Delhi said the US regretted the move, which was "out of keeping with recent developments".

Within India, however, even opposition parties, including Congress, fell over each other in their haste to congratulate the Indian scientists. A senior

figure in the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which heads the ruling coalition, described the test as "yet another feather in the cap of [Prime Minister] Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his government."

In a television address to the nation, Mr Vajpayee described Agni-II as a "vindication of our steadfast commitment to self-reliance. In a rapidly changing security environment, India cannot depend on others to defend her. Agni is a symbol of the resurgent India which is able to say yes, we will stand on our own feet." The test, he went on, was "purely a defensive step. It is not meant for aggression against any nation. Rather Agni is proof of our de-

termination to strengthen our national security so ... we can defend ourselves."

Mr Vajpayee reiterated that India remained committed to "minimum deterrence, to no first use of nuclear weapons and never to use them against non-nuclear weapon states. Let us together," he concluded rousing, "make the 21st century India's century."

As long ago as 15 December last year, Mr Vajpayee announced that Agni-II would soon be tested. But the big day was postponed several times for various reasons, most memorably because of his own historic bus trip across the Pakistani border to tie the knot of trust and friendship with his

Pakistani counterpart, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Now the deed has finally been done, and the timing is significant. Mr Vajpayee's government faces one of its toughest weeks since it came to power over a year ago: one of the fragile coalition's key partners, a party from the southern state of Tamil Nadu led by a former film star called Jayalalitha, is almost certain to pull out of the government. It is therefore conceivable that this could be Mr Vajpayee's last week in power – and he has made clear that he does not intend to fight for another term in office. If so, he has clearly decided to go out in the same way he came in – with a bang.



Fernandes: India immune to any external threats'

Niger army to choose new leader

THE POLITICAL future of Niger, whose assassinated president was buried yesterday, lies in the hands of the military after no clear succession candidate emerged from weekend talks.

President Ibrahim Barre Mainassara, who came to power in a 1996 military coup and repressed political opposition, was buried at Noumega, his home village, on the border with Nigeria. He was shot dead on Friday at the airport of the capital, Niamey. He had been due to fly to the neighbouring West African state of Burkina Faso en route this week to a summit in Libya of six states in the region, known as Comesa.

In the Libyan capital, Tripoli, as in other countries of Comesa – Mali, Chad and Sudan – flags were flown at half mast yesterday in a televised address. Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader who is president of the group, paid tribute to Mainassara and urged Niger to "safeguard its democratic gains and build on them".

Reports from Niamey indicated that the mood was calm after Friday's shooting, in which up to five people died. Sources said Mainassara, known as "IBM", was shot by the airport ceremonial guard on the orders of his own head of security, Col Ibrahim Malamanne. On the eve of his assassination, the president had reportedly been asked to resign by army chiefs, but had refused.

Yesterday's funeral was attended by the Chief of General Staffs, Colonel Moussa

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH
in Tripoli

Moumouni Djermakoye, but not by Colonel Malamanne.

Mainassara was the Chief of General Staffs when he came to power in a January 1996 coup, which deposed President Mahamane Ousmane, claiming his predecessor had failed to address the country's political and economic problems.

Later that year, Mainassara was elected president in a poll in which he sacked the electoral commission and locked up opposition leaders. During his rule, the army and police clamped down on opponents. There were street battles in April last year when demonstrators burnt cars and military vehicles. Niger is a vast country with a population of about eight million, but most of it is desert. The former French colony exports uranium but is largely a subsistence-farming economy.

The creation last year of Comesa – which Enira is also expected to join – has been a boon to the country and to the organisation's other impoverished members, because of Libya's oil-based wealth. The Comesa countries were the first last year to decide to defy the United Nations ban on air travel to Libya, imposed over the 1988 Lockerbie bombing. They were later backed by the Organisation of African Unity. Last week the UN suspended the ban when two Libyans accused of planting the bomb were handed over for trial.



Rhinos reach record number

BY PETER POPHAM
in Delhi

THE ONE-HORNED rhino lives. Seven months after 39 of the highly endangered leathery behemoths were swept to their deaths by catastrophic flooding that forced hundreds more to flee, a census completed at Kaziranga National Park in Assam, north-east India, on Saturday revealed an increase in rhino numbers of more than 40 per cent over five years.

Elsewhere in Assam, too, where the rhinos are less rigorously protected from poachers, the numbers are up. Saturday's census at Kaziranga found 1,649 rhinos, while the rest of the state has another 120. A senior forest official said proudly: "This is the best figure Assam can boast of since the animal census started in 1908."

Thirty years ago, rhinos seemed on the brink of extermination in the park, the principal reserve for one-horned rhinos in the world. Poached mainly for their horn, which is highly valued in Chinese traditional medicine, their numbers in 1966 were down to 366. Levels of protection unmatched in any other park in the subcontinent led to a recovery, with 1,229 animals counted in 1991. But in 1993 numbers fell to 1,164.

Kaziranga is in the southern flood plain of the Brahmaputra River, and in last year's monsoon flooding was so severe that most of the animals had to take refuge in unprotected areas, crossing a road used by lorries. There were fears that the park's wildlife, which includes tiger, elephants, deer and wild pigs as well as rhino, might be decimated. An international alert galvanised supporters around the world, and now the park is celebrating a change in its fortunes.

Much of the success of Kaziranga is due to funding but to its rangers, who patrol 24 hours a day. Last year poachers killed 34 rhinos across the state of Assam, while in Kaziranga at least four poachers were killed by forest guards. A reputation for ruthlessness has undoubtedly aided the guards' efforts.

"In the past we used to arrest poachers and after a few days they were out again on bail," one forest official said. "But now if we find anybody inside the park with arms, we just shoot them."

Algerians hope election will heal the wounds of civil war

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

THEY WILL not be fully "free and fair" – certainly not as Western democracies understand the term. Indeed, the winner to all intents and purposes is already known. Nor can they on their own resolve the country's huge problems. Even so, after seven years of civil war, this week's elections to find a successor to the outgoing President Liamine Zeroual could prove a small step towards normal politics in Algeria.

Polls have been open since Saturday for the 680,000 Algerian voters resident in France. On Thursday they will be joined by the 15 million eligible voters in Algeria. And when the votes are counted, it would be a miracle if the winner is not Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the 1970s foreign minister now backed by the former ruling party, the FLN – and, more importantly, by the army generals who ultimately run the country.

The elections represent the best hope thus far for national reconciliation since the start of the ferocious war between the regime and Islamic fundamentalist insurgents in 1992 after the cancellation of elections that the subsequently banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was about to win.

Seven years and the death of more than 70,000 people later, the government appears to have gained a decisive upper hand. Though there are still sporadic deadly attacks – mostly in the countryside and against members of the security forces – the killing rate has dropped dramatically.

But the price has been the loss of most of what little public confidence there was that Algeria's rulers could tackle the country's problems. The election campaign has been low-key to the point of listlessness; the main fear is that great portions

of the electorate, convinced nothing will change, will not bother to vote, rendering the result meaningless.

If so, it would be a pity – because for once the voters have a real choice of candidates and platforms. If Mr Bouteflika is the man of the establishment and *le pouvoir* – as the cabal of top military officers and business figures that runs the country is known – he is not the official candidate of the army.

Three of his opponents, meanwhile, offer a genuine opposition. They are Mouloud Hamrouche, the former reformist prime minister between 1989 and 1991; the former foreign minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, who has been formally backed by the leaders abroad of the FIS; and Hocine Ait Ahmed, the 78-year-old socialist with a reputation for spotless integrity, and a prestige conferred by his place among *les neuf historiques*, the nine

original leaders of the 1954–62 independence war against the French. If Mr Bouteflika does not win outright on the first ballot, his run-off opponent will be one of these.

Even so, the "free and fair" poll promised by President Zeroual is unlikely to come about. He himself was levered prematurely out of office, a sign that Algeria's secretive and manipulative ways still flourish. Several would-be candidates were barred from standing for no justifiable apparent reason, while no foreign observers will monitor proceedings.

"Without monitors, even if the vote is really fair it risks not being accepted as such," warns George Joffe, director of studies at the Royal Institute for International Affairs.

Though several candidates had asked for observers, foreign governments, including France and the United States, anxious not to jeopardise their eco-

nomic interests in Algeria, did not press the point with the regime.

There are also worries over fraudulent returns from the mobile ballot boxes used in rural areas, and the voting procedures in army barracks, at a time when the security forces have to deal with a continuing albeit much diminished, security problem. Above all there is the dilemma posed by the Islamic movement.

Though the FIS may not be the force it was, it is still one without which no election in Algeria can be truly representative. The endorsement of Taleb Ibrahimi is a gamble and, in the view of some observers, a mistake. "If he doesn't do well, it would be a major loss of face for the FIS," said Djebbah, a leading Algerian analyst says.

"But if he does really well, it will play into the army's hands. They will simply warn it's 1991–92 all over again."

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IN BRIEF

Author to be Tokyo's governor

A NATIONALIST writer, Shintaro Ishihara, looked set to become governor of Tokyo region after the first results in local elections were reported yesterday. Mr Ishihara, author of the 1989 book, *The Japan That Can Say No*, is a vocal opponent of the United States military presence in Japan. Tokyo has 9.7 million eligible voters.

Hutu leader seeks forgiveness

RWANDA'S HUTU Prime Minister Pierre-Célestin Rwigema has asked that his party be forgiven for its role in the 1994 genocide. Mr Rwigema wanted his Republican Democratic Movement to be forgiven "for the divisive ideology of some of its leaders who ... led the massacres".

Egyptian train crash kills three

RESCUE WORKERS cut through wreckage yesterday to pull bodies from the twisted metal of two trains that had collided on Saturday evening in northern Egypt. At least three were killed and 48 people injured in the accident in the Dakhla province.

Israel warns riot-torn Nazareth

ISRAEL HAS threatened to suspend the council in Nazareth after Christian-Muslim battles over a plan to build a plaza to accommodate Christian pilgrims for the millennium. Muslims want the site for a mosque. The dispute over the half-acre plot is now in the courts.

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1. approving the form of contract for the purchase by the Company of 75,372 of its ordinary shares of £1.00 each for the aggregate sum of £45,336.24
2. authorising the payment of £45,336.24 of the said sum out of capital.

The statutory declaration of the Directors of the Company and the auditor's report required by the Companies Act 1985 Section 176 are available for inspection at the registered office of the Company, 34 High East Street, Ilminster, Dorset.

Any creditor of the Company may apply to the court at any time within three months immediately following the date of the resolution to apply to the court under the Companies Act 1985 Section 176 for an order canceling the resolution or for other relief.

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Telecom Italia defence collapses

AN ATTEMPT by Telecom Italia to fend off Olivetti's \$65bn (£40bn) hostile bid collapsed at the weekend as shareholders failed to turn out on the third consecutive day in Turin to vote on part of its defence strategy. Representatives of just over 17 per cent of the stock, short of the 20 per cent required, attended a meeting on Sunday, following a failure on Saturday to reach a quorum of one-third. Commentators said the meeting's failure meant Telecom's defensive plans, including the conversion of savings shares, a share buyback and the buyout of the rest of its mobile unit TIM were, in effect, dead.

Goldman top five to share \$700m

GOLDMAN SACHS, the US investment bank coming to the stock market next month, will reveal today that its top five partners will pocket shares worth about \$700m (£435m) from the float. Details of the pathfinder prospectus will show that Hank Paulson, the chairman (pictured), will be the largest beneficiary, with a stake

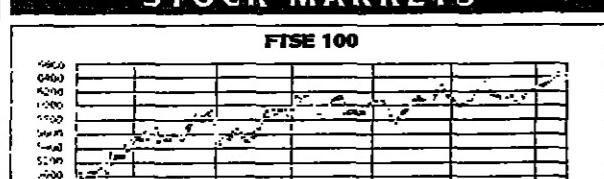
valued at \$200m. John Thornton, the co-chief operating officer, is in line for \$140m, along with the other chief operating officer, John Thain. A small portion of the equity will be handed to all Goldman's 13,000 staff.

The prospectus will also show that the indicative price of the float has been raised to \$45 to \$55 per share, valuing the firm at \$25bn.

Little gifts go electronic today

THE ELECTRONIC trading of gifts will start today at Liffe, the futures and options market. The move to screen-based trading is part of a £20m modernisation programme by the market. Equity options started screen-based trading in November. Bond and other futures will convert to the new system next month.

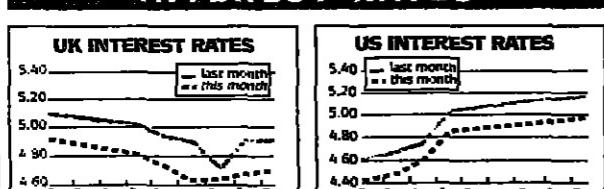
STOCK MARKETS



INDICES

Index	Close	Wk's chg	Wk's chg (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	6472.80	+142.20	+2.26	6496.1	5998.2	2.42%
FTSE 250	5563.50	+110.20	+2.02	5970.9	4247.6	3.18%
FTSE 350	3069.90	+66.70	+2.22	3073.9	2210.4	2.53%
FTSE All Share	2988.79	+62.50	+2.18	2971.79	1914.53	2.58%
FTSE SmallCap	2423.30	+18.30	+0.78	2791.8	1829.0	3.56%
FTSE MidCap	1320.30	+15.50	+1.20	1517.1	1046.2	2.93%
FTSE AIM	773.50	+4.60	+0.55	1146.9	761.3	1.75%
FTSE Eurotop 100	3003.76	+72.89	+2.49	3072.27	2818.15	1.95%
FTSE Eurotop 300	2994.94	+34.94	+2.85	3132.07	2800.63	1.87%
Dow Jones	10173.84	+241.34	+3.47	10400.08	9500.00	1.55%
Nikkei	16835.62	+265.84	+1.61	16956.66	12785.9	0.62%
Hang Seng	11924.10	+111.12	+0.97	11899.34	5544.79	2.97%
Dax	5124.18	+209.59	+4.21	5171.83	3833.71	1.59%
S&P 500	1248.35	+54.63	+4.32	1344.08	923.32	1.19%
Nasdaq	2570.05	+98.69	+4.00	2596.25	1357.09	0.27%
Nikkei 225	5889.00	+164.39	+3.00	7837.7	5320.9	1.52%
Barclays Bank	1552.55	+51.41	+3.42	12339.14	4575.68	8.123%
Berkinam Bhd	3320.52	+65.54	+2.02	3713.21	2698.26	1.97%
American Exch	3772.72	+4.10	+0.11	600.65	366.58	1.86%
France CAC 40	4323.14	+158.64	+4.02	4404.94	2891.21	1.65%
Malta MIB30	2670.00	+149.00	+0.41	3917.0	2417.5	1.05%
Austria DAX 35	10101.90	+361.20	+3.71	10989.8	6869.9	1.72%
India Overall	5356.31	+70.03	+1.33	5581.7	3722.57	1.54%
5 Korea Corp	687.42	+40.64	+6.28	690.52	277.37	1.00%
Australia ASX	3560.00	+86.60	+2.91	3061.6	2396.7	3.028%

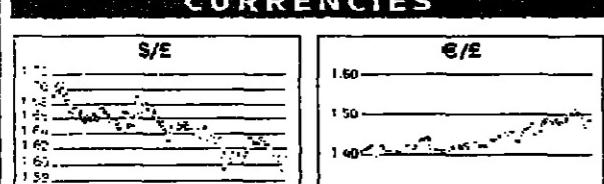
INTEREST RATES



BOND YIELDS

Index	3 months	Yr chg	1 year	Yr chg	10 years	Yr chg	Long term	Yr chg
UK	5.31	-2.24	5.25	-2.29	4.39	-1.36	4.35	-1.29
US	5.00	-0.66	5.21	-0.57	5.04	-0.54	5.46	-0.42
Japan	0.17	-0.51	0.23	-0.47	1.62	-0.33	2.37	-0.30
Germany	2.66	-0.97	2.72	-1.20	3.85	-1.00	4.79	-0.61

CURRENCIES



POUND

Friday	Wk's chg	Yr ago
Dollar	1.6078	+0.6699
Euro	1.4897	+0.43c
Yen	194.42	+21.00
Ester	102.60	+0.40

DOLLAR

Friday	Wk's chg	Yr ago
Sterling	0.6220	-0.18c
Euro	0.9263	+0.10c
Yen	120.88	+0.20c
Ester	108.90	-0.50

OTHER INDICATORS

Close	Wk's chg	Yr ago
Brent Oil (\$)	14.35	0.32
Gold (\$)	281.55	1.10
Silver (\$)	4.92	-0.10

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.4594	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.88
Austria (schillings)	19.70	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1618
Belgium (francs)	58.02	New Zealand (\$)	2.8859
Canada (\$)	2.3342	Norway (krone)	12.13
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8278	Portugal (escudos)	286.32
Denmark (kroner)	10.72	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.8502
Finland (markka)	8.5952	Singapore (\$)	2.6576
France (francs)	9.4061	South Africa (rand)	9.5675
Germany (marks)	2.8155	Spain (pesetas)	238.12
Greece (drachma)	464.90	Sweden (koron)	12.94
Hong Kong (\$)	12.00	Switzerland (francs)	2.3060
Ireland (pounds)	1.1291	Thailand (bahts)	56.03
Indian (rupees)	61.54	Turkey (lira)	580343
Israel (shekels)	5.9823	USA (\$)	1.5605
Italy (lira)	2793		
Japan (yen)	189.24		
Malaysia (ringgit)	5.8511		
Norfolk (lira)	0.6138		

Rates for indication purposes only
Source: Bloomberg

Prescott to gain control of rail funding

JOHN

Commodity prices may spoil the party

nding
has substantial powers that his predecessors did not have. The Association of Train Operators warned a review of the charging structure could harm Railtrack's investment programme. A spokesman said: "We would hope they would bring into the rail industry from the Government remains a priority." The Government's review of the rail industry has been delayed by a year, from 1999 to 2000.

Railtrack's shares have fallen from a 1999 high of 510.50 at the close of last year to 410.50 in the wake of growing fears about the regulatory review.

MAM to expand Merrill branding

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

MERCURY ASSET Management, the City fund management group acquired by American investment bankers Merrill Lynch in 1997, is considering dropping the "Mercury" name from some products and instead selecting "Merrill" brand name.

The group, which is under pressure to justify the \$2.2 billion paid for it in November 1997, has already started the process of branding itself in the United States. Merrill Lynch's US Asset Management, while retaining its traditional name Mercury Asset Management,

is to move to drop "Mercury" altogether in new market units, unless the possibility of the Mercury brand ultimately being phased out worldwide favours Merrill Lynch.

Merrill Lynch's co-heads, Stephen Zimmerman and Carol Gallo, are keen to take advantage of Merrill's partnership to develop new sales channels as well as expand its business in countries like Germany where the equity culture is starting to take off. They have ambitious plans to launch a range of package products in the next few months which will be sold through other financial intermediaries in Japan, Europe and the US.

There is a recognition that the Mercury brand, while strong in the institutional market both in the UK and the US, is relatively unknown in the retail market in Europe and Asia.

A confidential broker's report by the legal firm Mergers Stanley says that with Merrill's banking Mercury is in a strong position to expand its business both in the US institutional market and in retail.

However, the report's author, Henry Meier, says questions remain on what is the right way to brand Mercury in the retail market, particularly given that its heritage is in the traditional insurance business.

Merrill's own US assessment of its business is one of the strongest, but it has been losing ground to rivals.

cutives

more on strategic issues, will be taken and was vital if firms are to survive the II decade, due to the survey.

However, the survey finds there are still a significant number of directors who, following accepted practice, five years after the company's results were published.

Companies face greater competition than ever before and quality non-execs are the answer. Mr Bryce says the answer is to increase non-executive pay.



GAVYN DAVIES

The slump in commodity prices last year may have had a larger beneficial impact than recognised

cent to around 1.6 per cent over the same period. This suggests that the decline in oil prices directly reduced global inflation by around 0.4 per cent last year.

Furthermore, declines in other commodity prices probably added slightly to this disinflationary effect, making an estimated total impact of around 0.5 per cent from the commodity shock on the global CPI.

The immediate impact of this disinflationary shock on real GDP was also highly favourable. With wages largely unaffected by the drop in consumer prices during 1998, the commodity shock boosted real household income by around 0.5 per cent last year, increasing consumers' expenditure by around 0.4 per cent, and im-

plying a boost (including multiplier effects) to real GDP in the OECD area of about the same amount. In summary, then, the impact of the commodity shock in 1998 was probably to reduce global inflation by around 0.5 per cent, while boosting global GDP growth by 0.4 per cent.

Of course, these economic effects have undoubtedly impacted both short and long-term interest rates during the recent past. We can use the well-known Taylor Rule for assessing the possible impact on global short rates. The decline in consumer price inflation of 0.5 per cent would, according to the Taylor Rule, have reduced global short rates by 0.75 per cent, while the boost to real GDP of 0.4 per cent would have increased global short rates by 0.2 per cent, making an overall net effect on global short rates of minus 0.55 per cent.

According to the Goldman Sachs bond model, these shock effects are likely to have reduced 10-year global bond yields by around 0.45 per cent compared with what they would otherwise have been. Since global bond yields fell by around 1.2 per cent from late 1997 to early 1998, this implies that the commodity price shock accounted for about one-third of last year's global bond rally.

And, because lower bond yields were the main driving force behind higher share prices last year, the commodity shock also contributed substantially to the equity bull market.

Alternative oil scenarios	US		Japan		Euroland		OECD	
	PPI	CPI	PPI	CPI	PPI	CPI	PPI	CPI
Prices steady at \$15.50/barrel	+1.6%	+0.4%	+1.0%	+0.1%	+1.5%	+0.6%	+1.5%	+0.4%
Price up to \$17/barrel by April, then stable throughout the summer	+2.5%	+0.6%	+1.5%	+0.3%	+2.5%	+0.8%	+2.3%	+0.6%
Price up to \$20/barrel by June, level thereafter	+3.5%	+0.8%	+2.7%	+0.5%	+4.6%	+1.2%	+3.7%	+0.9%

Figures show effect on CPI and PPI inflation rates to end-1999. Baseline oil price is \$15.50 (WTI basis) in each case

SOURCE: Goldman Sachs

in the United States there are growing fears that rates may have to rise.

Fortunately, with the global economy still operating with a large margin of spare capacity, there are still strong disinflationary effects stemming from the manufacturing sector. But it now looks as if the rebound in oil prices will be sufficient to almost exactly offset the improvement in inflation stemming from these other sources. This will leave the global inflation rate unchanged over a 12-month horizon instead of falling further, as it would have done if oil prices had remained at \$15.50.

Furthermore, global bond yields are likely to be around 0.5 per cent higher as a result of the rebound in oil prices. Interestingly, this is almost exactly the extent of the rebound in nominal global bond yields which has occurred over the past several months, so on this basis it seems likely that the bond markets have already absorbed most of the bad news emanating from the rise in oil prices seen so far.

Commodity prices, despite their recent rebound, still stand about 10 per cent lower than a year ago, and remain at 30-year lows against OECD consumer prices. They would have to rise sharply further to pose a fatal threat to the bull market in bonds or equities this year, and this seems improbable. But the margin of safety for world inflation now looks much thinner than before.

In recent weeks, however, the slump in commodity prices has started to reverse. So far, the recovery in agricultural and metal prices has been minimal, but the oil price has rebounded by over 50 per cent from its \$10.11/barrel low point.

With energy prices accounting for about a 48 per cent weight in the GSCI, this has been sufficient to lead to a rebound of almost 25 per cent in overall commodity prices in the past two months. The key issue for 1999 is to what extent last year's favourable economic effects are likely to be reversed, given the commodity price rebound we have now seen.

Let us look first at the likely adverse effect on inflation. Goldman Sachs economists in the US, Japan and Euroland have estimated the impact on producer and consumer prices of three different alternative scenarios for the oil price. These scenarios are shown in the accompanying table - sce-

nario two (\$17/barrel) is currently the central case, with scenario one showing a low oil price variant, and scenario three a high oil price variant.

The cumulative impact on consumer prices over about two quarters would be plus 0.6 per cent if oil prices were stable at \$17/barrel throughout the summer, as compared with remaining at only \$15.50. The effect on producer prices would, of course, be much larger at plus 2.3 per cent. There is some variation in these effects between individual countries, with the inflation impact in Japan apparently being considerably smaller than that in Euroland, and the US coming somewhere in between.

This increase in inflation will reverse all of the benefits from lower commodity prices which were enjoyed last year. In fact, it will involve a drag on real GDP of around 0.5 per cent in 1999, reflecting the reduction in real household disposable income

which higher energy prices will entail. This is certainly not a negligible hit to the world economy - to put it in context, it may be only a little smaller than the drag which occurred as the result of the Asian shock in 1997-1998.

With global inflation higher than it otherwise would have been, and global GDP growth lower than otherwise, we can use the reasoning outlined above to calculate the impact of the oil price rebound on the expected path for interest rates.

According to the Taylor Rule, global short rates are likely to be around 0.65 per cent higher than they otherwise would have been, which in practice means that the scope for any further cuts in global interest rates following last week's 0.5 per cent cut announced by the European Central Bank (ECB) now looks very limited. In fact, it is unlikely that either the Federal Reserve or the ECB will cut rates again this year, and at least

BICC investors stand firm

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

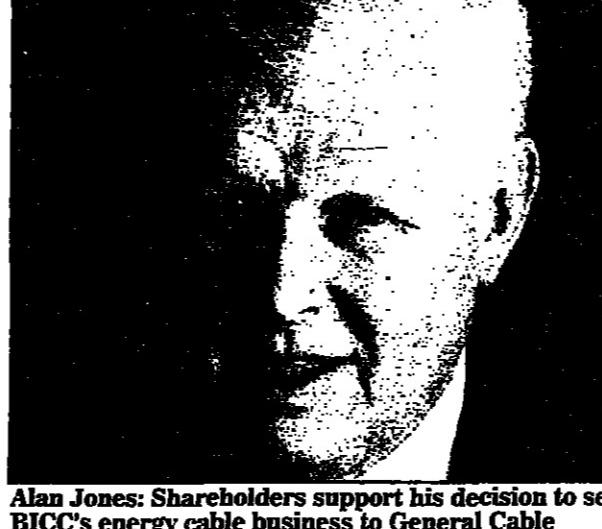
LEADING SHAREHOLDERS in BICC have rebuffed an increased £462m offer for the troubled cable and construction group from Wassall, the aggressive mini-conglomerate.

The investors dismissed the 110p-a-share informal offer as inadequate and said they would back the BICC board in its rejection of the bid. They also pledged to support the decision by the chief executive, Alan Jones, to sell the group's energy cable business to General Cable of the US for £275m to concentrate on the construction division Balfour Beatty.

However, some large investors said they would not back Wassall's bid. "Wassall want us to act on its behalf. I don't see why we should. The board has taken quite a number of positive steps for the benefit of the company," said one.

Another investor said Wassall's offer "is not even in the right ball park". He said the new-look BICC could be worth up to 200p a share, or £240m, given Balfour Beatty's strength in high-margin construction work. "I think shareholders will vote through the sale of the energy cable business and the Wassall bid will vanish."

The shareholders' reaction will strengthen Mr Jones' hand. Mr Jones has been trying to stop the company's share price and sales decline by reducing its dependence on the troubled cable market.



Alan Jones: Shareholders support his decision to sell BICC's energy cable business to General Cable

IN BRIEF

Directors are more confident

THE ECONOMY will show very little growth in the first half of the year even though business optimism is improving significantly, according to the latest report by the Institute of Directors. The balance of directors who were more, rather than less, optimistic has jumped from 7 per cent in December to 40 per cent in March.

LTCM beats Soros

LONG-TERM CAPITAL Management has beaten George Soros's Quantum and Julian Robertson's Tiger hedge funds in the first quarter. According to investors on Wall Street, LTCM, whose \$4bn losses last year prompted the US Federal Reserve to organise a bail-out, has gained 11.8 per cent in this year to March, compared with a 15.5 per cent fall at Quantum and a 7.5 per cent fall at Tiger Management.

Rover aid talks

THE BMW board will meet this week to discuss the Government's aid offer for its Rover plant at Longbridge. Separately, Rover will launch a sales offensive for its Rover 200 and 400 series cars in the next few weeks in a bid to boost flagging sales.

Mr Greg Bryce: an apology

ON 22 MARCH we incorrectly reported that Greg Bryce was one of five traders who were found guilty of insider trading after a three-year investigation by the Life Disciplinary Panel into front-running. We stated that Mr Bryce faced a fine of £10,000. We now understand Mr Bryce was never under investigation by Life and accordingly never found guilty of insider trading nor fined at all. We sincerely apologise to Mr Bryce for the embarrassment caused by our error.

TSB Interest Rates for Business Customers

These rates of interest apply with effect from start of business on 12th April 1999

	OLD AER %	OLD GROSS %	NEW AER %	NEW GROSS %	NEW NET %
Business Investment Account - paid monthly					
30 day notice account					
£250,000+	4.23	4.15	3.97	3.90	3.12
£100,000-249,999	4.18	4.10	3.92	3.85	3.08
£25,000-99,999	3.92	3.85	3.66	3.60	2.88
£10,000-24,999	3.40	3.35	3.14	3.10	2.48
£1-9,999	0.50	0.50	0.25	0.25	0.20
Premier Interest Account - paid monthly					
14 day notice account					
£250,000+	4.13	4.05	3.87	3.80	3.04
£100,000-249,999	3.92	3.85	3.66	3.60	2.88
£25,000-99,999	3.66	3.60	3.40	3.35	2.68
£10,000-24,999	3.25	3.20	2.99	2.95	2.36
£1-9,999	2.02	2.00	1.76	1.75	1.40
Business Call Account - paid monthly					
£250,000+	2.58	2.55	2.32	2.30	1.84
£50,000-249,999	2.38	2.35	2.12	2.10	1.68
£10,000-49,999	2.02	2.00	1.76	1.75	1.40
£1,000-9,999	1.71	1.70	1.46	1.45	1.16
£1-9,999	1.46	1.45	1.21	1.20	0.96
Practice Call Account - paid quarterly					
£1+	3.55	3.50	3.29	3.25	2.60
Designated Clients Account - paid quarterly					
£100,000+	3.44	3.40	3.19	3.15	2.52
£50,000-99,999	3.29	3.25	2.93	2.90	2.32
£10,000-19,999	2.93	2.90	2.63	2.60	2.08
£2,000-9,999	2.17	2.15	1.91	1.90	1.52
£1-1,999	0.35	0.35	0.25	0.25	0.20
BICA for					

Footsie should greet 2000 at 7,000 points

STOCK MARKET WEEK



DEREK PAIN

SHARES HAVE enjoyed an exhilarating run, with Footsie striding confidently to new highs. The second quarter opened strongly and another record was established on Friday.

Although the stock market remains blissfully wedged to blue chips, the long-neglected second and third-liners have maintained their revival but are still not within hailing distance of their peaks.

The burning question, as always, is whether the rip-roaring display can continue. Strategists anticipate a more subdued performance in the spring and summer months but some are cautiously raising their year-end Footsie forecasts.

My guess is the index will greet the millennium at around 7,000 points, with much of the advance occurring in the last quarter of the year.

I believe that the sheer pressure of money will force institutions to add to their blue-chip hoards. But it will again be a market of two halves, with the real action concentrated firmly on the top Footsie stocks and the rest having to be content with the occasional crumb from the fund managers' table.

Institutional cash flow this year should be a heady £65bn against £6.3bn last year; interest rates will keep on falling and companies will continue to return significant amounts of cash to shareholders.

And, of course, the pool of shares continues to evaporate. Shares are being absorbed by buy-backs of various types and on the undercard, management buy-outs and overseas cash bids are a regular feature of market activity.

Corporate action will also fire the market's imagination. Glaxo Wellcome has let it be known it nurses acquisi-

some brave souls are talking about 11,000 by the end of the year although a more realistic 10,500 may be enough to keep Footsie moving.

But, of course, clouds hover. The growing Balkans crisis has so far been steadfastly ignored on both sides of the Atlantic. If it continues to escalate, investment confidence will be damaged. The strengthening oil price and the threat of a tighter US monetary policy also provide reasons for concern.

The threat of an UK recession seems to have died, although the so-called soft landing could be hard enough to leave a few bruises.

The hectic stampede into unproven companies could be another inhibiting influence. The ratings accorded some alleged growth stocks are "dangerously high" in the view of the investment house Merrill Lynch.

And there is something which does not quite add up when four Footsie constituents - Colt Telecom, Enser, Orange and Telewest Communications, with combined capitalisations of £33bn - have yet to make a humble penny of profit between them.

The big test for the market could lurk in the lower regions. The present two-tier market, with Footsie constituents and a few others being chased to heady heights and the rest, by comparison, largely neglected, is causing anxiety.

A healthy stock market needs a bright and breezy undercard. The shares of well-run small companies should not be rated so low that they hesitate to raise new capital in the market.

After all, some of today's tiddlers may grow into the giants of tomorrow, but to ensure that they do so, they need the ability to raise cash on realistic terms.

Although there are indications that the institutional

investors are beginning to venture more actively among the smaller fry, for so long the preserve of private shareholders, they still have a long way to go to make up for their earlier shabby indifference.

One of the fund managers' favourite blue chips dominates this week's results announcement schedule. Tesco may have fallen from its 202p high but it still enjoys healthy support in the market with, as far as I am aware, not a solitary analyst sell recommendation in sight.

Dave McCarthy at investment house BT Alex Brown is one of the researchers in love with the superstores chain. He predicts year's profits tomorrow will be up 7 per cent at £270.2m and rates the shares a "strong buy".

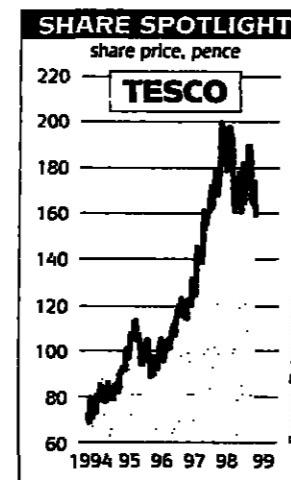
Although worries about supermarket price wars and the Government's probe into the supermarket groups' profits have caused unease among investors, Tesco sales serenely on. Its overseas expansion has yet to produce much of a return.

Mr McCarthy said: "As the seed corn overseas starts to bear fruit, the share price will reflect the underlying quality of the management and the corporate strategy."

But the analytical optimism has not prevented Tesco shares hitting a 12-month low. They finished on Friday at 155.5p.

But as a long-term investment the shares have proved their worth: they were around 20p in the early Eighties. Arch-rival J Sainsbury is expected to produce a trading statement on Friday.

Associated British Foods, checking in today with interim results, is likely to have found its £1.4bn cash pile something of a drag. Operating profits should have risen by 8 per cent but lower interest rates are expected to reduce the half-year gain to some 2 per cent at £197.5m.



Companies reporting and economics diary for the week ahead

TODAY - Finals: Bond International Software; Servox; Interims: Associated British Foods; Wardle Stores.

TUESDAY - Economic statistics: British Retail Consortium publishes its

latest retail sales monitor.

Finals: Tesco; Rugby Group; Automotive Precision.

Interims: Pressac.

WEDNESDAY - Economic statistics: Engineering turnover (February); British Chambers of Commerce publishes its quarterly business survey.

Finals: Co-operative Bank Meetings: Lloyds TSB

THURSDAY - Economic statistics: Manufacturing turnover (February); British Chambers of Commerce publishes its quarterly business survey.

Finals: Seascape Shipping; Laura Ashley; Polydor; Meetings: BP Amoco; Woolwich.

FRIDAY - Economic statistics: Ecolin meeting starts.

First Quarter: Arm Holdings.

A CLAIM for more than £200m by the Inland Revenue against the estate of the late Octav Botmar, the former head of Nissan UK Ltd, is set to reach the Court of Appeal next month.

The High Court ruled in favour of the Inland Revenue's demand in November 1997. Mr Botmar, a German national resident of Switzerland, died in July 1998, delaying the appeal until May this year.

Mr Justice Rutter ruled in the High Court on 21 May that the copyright of *Monty Python's Life of Brian* rested with the Pythons. Now the Royal Bank of Canada claims that it has certain rights over the film because Paragon used its rights in the film as security for loans from the bank. The Pythons claim that any such rights, if they ever existed, were nullified when their relationship with Paragon ended in 1996.

In November 1996 the revenue settled for a payment of £59m from Nissan UK. Two Nissan UK directors, Michael Hunt and Frank Shannon, were jailed for cheating the revenue. During this time Mr Botmar remained in Switzerland.

The revenue subsequently dropped its case against Mr Botmar due to his ill health. His solicitors then filed a suit against the revenue for "malicious prosecution" on the grounds that the revenue had not possessed enough evidence to justify its arrest warrants.

Mr Botmar died in 1998 and his lawyers then dropped this claim.

Mark Spragg, the UK solicitor representing Mr Botmar's estate, says the current case centres on two trusts which Mr Botmar set up in 1974 to handle his shareholding in Nissan UK. He placed his shares in a charitable trust, and the dividends from these were paid into a second trust in Liechtenstein.

The revenue claims it is owed income tax on these dividends totalling £66m. Including interest and penalties, Mr Spragg reckons this claim could eventually surpass £200m. The Court of Appeal will hear the case on 25 or 26 May.

ANDERSEN CONSULTING is seeking confidential customer information from BT to aid its legal case against a Cheshire company which it accuses of making telephone calls "purporting to be made by" Andersen Consulting.

The giant American-based firm has issued a summons against BT in order to obtain itemised call logs relating to Totally Outsourced Proactive Solutions Ltd, a company based in Bowden.

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Anderson says that it intends to bring proceedings against the Cheshire firm for amongst other things, "unlawful interference with business, misuse of confidential information and passing off, in respect of a number of false telephone calls purporting to be made by or on behalf of (Anderson Consulting or its clients)."

ORBIS PENSION Trustees are suing Storehouse Combined Pension Schemes for more than £100,000 over a property which the latter leased and then vacated, and which Orbis claims should have been refurbished by the pension fund.

Orbis originally leased the offices in Ley Street, Ilford, Essex in 1975 from a company called Brador Properties for 99 years.

Orbis then negotiated an "underlease" with Storehouse, formerly Mothercare Pension Schemes Limited, in 1986 for a period of 10 years.

Storehouse moved out of the premises in September last year.

Orbis claims that under the lease agreement, Storehouse should have made a raft of repairs to the offices, which it estimates will now cost £110,022.64. Orbis are demanding damages and costs.



Monty Python is looking on the bright side of life - hoping to win its case against the Royal Bank of Canada

Pythons fight bank for rights to 'Life of Brian'

WHO'S SUING WHOM

JOHN WILLCOCK

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Hakkin proves the ma for McL in Brazil

Did Alan Bennett write 'The Sweeney'?

I HEAR that Sir Tom Stoppard, the Oscar-winning screenplay co-writer once better known in these parts as a rather good playwright, has acquired a stalker. It is not just the usual common-or-garden kind - the crazed fan with gun, pair of binoculars, empty autograph book and scrapbooks of bulging memorabilia - oh no. Sir Tom's stalker is a biographer.

His name is Ira B Nadel. His most recent work was an authorised biography of Leonard Cohen, the poet of love and four-note torch singer who once told me, if I may name-drop shamelessly, that he trusted Nadel so much he gave him a spare key to his Malibu apartment.

Mr Nadel did such a good job on Cohen's life that he won a biography award in his native Canada. Now he is on Stoppard's case, tracking down the great man's Czech forebears, his time as a cub reporter on the Western Daily Press in Bristol, the writing of *Jumper* and *Travesties*, his affairs of the heart, his flirtations with Hollywood ...

Like his friend Harold Pinter, Stoppard has a number of classy screenplays to his credit, from his adaptation of his own *Rosenkrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, to John le Carré's *The Russia House*, to his recent triumph with *Shakespeare in Love*. But he has also been involved in one or two less grand productions, which don't appear on his CV. Will he mind people finding out?

"I don't know how Stoppard's fans will respond," one of Nadel's people tells me. "To the news that he was paid £250,000 to do a final burnish on *Lethal Weapon 3*, on the understanding that his name didn't appear on the credits."

Well this Stoppard fan is delighted to hear it. Movies are democratic affairs, in which the old distinctions between high and low art are most boldly elided, where you can get undiluted wedges of *Romeo and Juliet* and Geoffrey Rush's frantic Carry-On-Willy-mugging for the camera in the same film, and win an Oscar for it. And though the *Lethal Weapon* series was more about car crashes and Mel Gibson shooting scores of bad guys while rolling on the floor, there's no shame giving Murtagh and Riggs some zippy dialogue. (Did you spot it? I wondered what was going on when they and the Joe Pesci character starting convers-



JOHN WALSH

ON MONDAY

ing in limericks). But if William Faulkner didn't mind writing lines for Joan Collins to say in *Land of the Pharaohs* (1955), I don't think we can afford to be snooty about these cultural bunk-ups.

And it adds a certain piquancy to the news that a student at Aberystwyth is engaged on an MA thesis on "Social Realism in *The Sweeney*" and is being roundly mocked for doing so. The Seventies TV cop show, famous for having John Thaw grate the words "You're nicked" through whisky-scented teeth every week, is, critics say, just too thick-eared to be a suitable subject for postgraduate study.

How can they be so blind? How can they be sure that, say, Alan Ben-

nett didn't have a hand in the episode when Regan and Carter track down a Bermondsey drug baron and, in the middle of the final shoot-out in a deserted warehouse, stop to listen to a 10-minute monologue from the baron's wife, complaining about the ambiguous patter of her microwave repair man? Personally, I thought it was a dead giveaway.

WHILE WE are talking highbrow and lowbrow, I hope Chris Smith won't be too hard on the BBC Board of Governors when he meets them next month.

According to the Sunday papers, he plans to assault Sir Christopher Bland and his crew with complaints - about *Yesterday in Parliament*, about bogus "guests" on "confessional shows", about the folly of pursuing increased ratings with populist trash. He will apparently remind them that it is their job "to produce quality dramas and documentaries rather than cheap quiz shows".

I like Mr Smith, but he just can't get away with sniping at quiz shows. Surely he understands that the finest expression of a healthy society is the ritual display of how much we know. The riddling question-and-response format is part of an antiphonal tradition stretching back to the Greeks, although you'd never guess it from watching *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*. The literary quiz in particular is an invaluable teaching resource, as when guests are invited to summarise the plot of *Der Mann ohne Eigenschaften* in 15 seconds. The bandying of quotations from classic books is like a religious rite, a sacred incantation of the words, the sentiments, we most treasure.

The literary quiz, in short, is nothing less than the cornerstone of our culture. Not only should it be kept in the schedules, but the participants should be paid several thousand pounds for taking part. By an

odd coincidence, there is one on Radio 4 next month, starting at just about the time Mr Smith goes to BBC headquarters. It is called *The Write Stuff* and involves the brilliant TV critic James Walton, the best-selling novelist Sebastian Faulks and various other people, not entirely excluding myself. I feel sure Mr Smith will commend it to the BBC top brass as being unusually worthwhile.

I feel sure he knows that a small cash contribution to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport will be found on top of the hand-dryer in the men's washroom at Wood Lane ...

SOMETHING HAS gone out of my life since I got back from a family holiday in Wales. Something fine and wonderful has been left behind in those dinky hills.

A nameless rapture, which held my soul entranced for a week, has fled o'er the mountainside leaving me to dull mundanity in the metropolis. A week later, I haven't come to terms with saying goodbye.

What am I talking about? You know what I'm talking about. It is the deep joy of driving around, taking the piss out of the crafts centres. You have come about 250 miles from London, and you don't quite remember why, but it was something to do with Elsewhere. Whatever your actual destination, the *raison d'être* of driving for six hours (and that includes the service station, the welcome reacquaintance with that McDonald's pork McRib, so delicious it requires only a drop of Chateau Petrus '82) to transform it into a banquet, the economy

packs of Jelly Babies and Fizzy Sharks demanded by the children, and shortly afterwards, the plastic carrier bag full of three-year-old's sick hastily deposited on the hard shoulder just outside Swindon is only to get Elsewhere, ie somewhere that's not London at Easter.

Once you're actually somewhere, in a converted



Tom Stoppard (left) 'burnished' the screenplay for 'Lethal Weapon 3', starring Mel Gibson (top right). Bottom right: John Thaw in 'The Sweeney', subject of a thesis on Social Realism. Below: Princess Margaret, who is 'in good spirits' after being scalded in a bath in Mustique

see a road sign promising "The Farming Experience - Pig's Throat Slitting 4pm" but maybe it was a fib early in the season.

POOR PRINCESS Margaret. She has got to the stage in her life where the only reports you hear about her are of accidents, "scars", medical rumours and endless gossip about her love of fags and, especially, her intake of gin.

The newest hot news is that she slipped and fell into a scalding bath in Mustique a month ago, and suffered a nasty burn. She'll be fine. No permanent damage done. We offer Her Royal Highness our sympathies, etc. But was it entirely tactful of the Palace to have a spokesman report on her recuperative state with the words: "She is in good spirits"?

THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

by Esau

No.3394 Monday 12 April

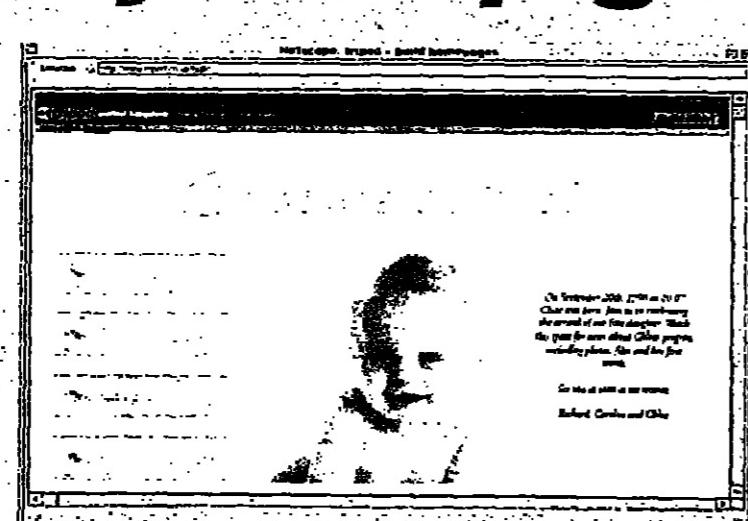
ACROSS

- The next in line hit gold (9)
- To doze during it is not acceptable (5)
- Lists contemptible people (5)
- Last three letters from minister put forward origin of modern religious belief (9)
- Blunder in, fussing around husband in Wagnerian role (9)
- See 4 down
- Hanker after coat seen in the distance (7)
- Drink deep, having gone back inside, and get quicker (5,2)
- Embarrassed by papers, first to go for compensation (7)
- Meat dish from America, coated with herb (7)
- 19 down Chirpy chap - 12's predecessor in absurd couple of disputes (4,7)
- Handy way of disabling the pack, or a ruck (6,4)
- Old flame recoils, sent packing, perhaps (9)
- Cause astonishment in a prison (5)
- Drawing of granny? (5)
- Fed up with most of relevant European language (3,6)

DOWN

- Prejudice shown up, adopting hard form of address (5)
- Standard target for rivals in fast-track promotion (9,4)
- Where is one running for president? (10)
- 12 across American chief in session with 20's 1 across, talking nonsense (7,4)
- Screen duplicated note on
- computer program (7)
- It helps to shed light on film by 24 given a bit of muscle (4,9)
- Appropriate comment, once taking French leave? (5)
- Intended to 15 apparent development of photographic technique? (4,5)
- Take some time off to help the aged? (10)
- Unusual bird seen in tree -
- secret's out (9)
- See 6
- Shoot a line about a new breed of dog (7)
- See 20 across
- Most of them enjoy just deserts in growth area (5)
- Do this, about to separate quill? (5)
- See 2

My New Boss.



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FULL SPORT COVERAGE IN A 16-PAGE SECTION

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The Brit
173 you

ley?

2 Hakkinen proves the master for McLaren in Brazil



3 Olazabal delights the galleries at Augusta



4 Shearer's twin strike takes Toon Army to FA Cup final



12 Hero's welcome for National winner Bobbyjo



SPORT

Five Nations' Championship: Scotland take the title thanks to Gibbs' try in dying seconds at Wembley

End of England's dream



Neil Munns/PA

Scott Gibbs dives over for Wales' injury-time try after sidestepping through the defence at Wembley yesterday. Stand-off Neil Jenkins converted to deny England the Five Nations' Grand Slam

THE WELSH have been enjoying the green, green grass of someone else's home for two long years now and yesterday afternoon, their English landlords marched into Wembley to reclaim the title deeds. They left empty-handed.

Scott Gibbs, the sort of squatter no police force would even contemplate trying to shift without three different court orders and a riot squad in support, broke the red rose defence – and its heart – clean asunder in the first minute of injury time to deny the overwhelming favourites a fourth Grand Slam in nine years and a first under the joint

BY CHRIS HEWETT at Wembley



Wales 32 **England** 31

Tries: Howarth, Gibbs	Tries: Luger, Harley, Hill
Conversions: Jenkins 2	Conversions: Wilkinson 2
Penalties: Jenkins 6	Penalties: Wilkinson 4

Half-time: 18-25 Attendance: 75,000

stewardship of Clive Woodward and Lawrence Dallaglio.

As a finale, it was no more than a classic Anglo-Welsh contest deserved. Gibbs' try was a mind-boggling combination of the rapier and the broadsword as he busted and sidestepped English tacklers by

the half-dozen, starting with Tim Rodber and ending with the debutant, Steve Harley.

Wales were a point adrift even then but there was not the remotest possibility of Neil Jenkins missing a do-or-die conversion from 20-odd metres. Old Jug-Ears would

have slotted it home had it been from his own 22, let alone England's.

Dallaglio, certainly England's stand-out performer and quite probably the man of this nerve-shredding occasion, was left to contemplate the Celtic double whammy to end them all: defeat by Wales and Scotland in the same afternoon. The triumph of Red Dragonhood presented the Five Nations' Championship to Scotland, whose equally vibrant victory in Paris on Saturday left them comfortably in the box seat in terms of points difference. It was certainly not a day for the smoked salmon set who had so blithely swapped Twickenham's West

car park for the wilds of North West London.

Perversely, Wales will never again play in the shadow of the twin towers: their own Millennium Stadium, reaching ever upwards on the Cardiff skyline, will soon be ready to receive them. Still they will be tempted to rip up the Wembley greenward by its roots and cart it down the M4. Having been left for dead by a confident England during the first 40 minutes, they drew so much physical and spiritual sustenance from the half-time break that they proceeded to cover the finest playing surface in world rugby like a red shroud.

In their funeral mood, England will remember Andre Watson, the South African referee, as their hanging judge and undertaker. They can have few complaints about the torrent of penalty awards that helped the relentless Jenkins keep his countrymen at the races during a first half

entirely dominated by England: some of the offences, like Neil Back's bone-headed refusal to give up the ball after the whistle, deserved whatever punishment the Pontypridd stand-off felt equipped to dish out. But was Tim Rodber's thunderous assault on Colin Charvis in injury time a fair hit or a calculated

misdemeanour? That one will rage for ever and a day.

Charvis, running the ball out of the Welsh 22 in a desperate attempt to spark something that might wipe out his side's six-point deficit, came up against Rodber in his "this far and no further" guise. If it looked a reasonable tackle, even though the Swansea flanker was left on the floor in a dozen pieces, but Watson saw it differently, yellow-carding the Englishman for a shoulder charge. And to think JPR Williams once won a Grand Slam for Wales with what

continued on page 10

Cricket: 3 Football: 4-7 • Graham Miller • The Week Ahead • 8 • Rugby League • 9 • Cricket: 12-15

14 year old long jumper lands in Florida.



The British Airways Olympic Futures Programme of multi-sport training camps in Britain and America is helping 175 young British athletes achieve their Olympic dreams.

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FA Cup semi-final: United rue disallowed goal as Arsenal have a player sent off for the 10th occasion this season

Battle of giants ends in deadlock

BY GLENN MOORE at Villa Park

Arsenal	0
Manchester United	0
After extra time	Attendance: 39,217

VILLA PARK has been a moribund place in recent weeks as the home club have slid down the Premiership table but, yesterday, it shook to the collision of giants. Manchester United and Arsenal, the modern game's behemoths, battled each other to a standstill during two hours of sound fury.

Elleray disallowed the goal and stuck by his decision after consulting the linesman. This was an error, though Yorke had briefly strayed into an offside position he was in no way interfering with play as Giggs was still in possession.

"It was ridiculous, quite amazing," said Alex Ferguson, the United manager.

This unsurprisingly was not the view of Arsène Wenger, Arsenal's manager, who said: "It was offside, it was indicated by the linesman early on. I don't know how anyone could complain."

Wenger, as usual, did not see the dismissal of Vivas, the 22nd Arsenal player to be sent off under his command and the 10th this season. He did concede, however: "If he has elbowed the guy he deserved to be sent off and it is stupid."

Wenger thought, with some justification, that Vivas's first booking, for fouling Bergkamp after five minutes, was harsh

With Ryan Giggs on the left wing, and apparently about to



KEN JONES

IF COMPARISON tends to come down romantically in favour of the great Manchester United team that included such notable virtuosos of the game as George Best, Denis Law and Bobby Charlton, things back then were not always as older supporters like to imagine.

Seeing another old United hero from that era, Pat Crerand, at Villa Park yesterday took me back 36 years to April 1963, when they reached the FA Cup final by defeating Southampton 1-0 at the same stadium.

Played on a barren, uneven surface and settled by a Law toe-poke, it was a poor match in keeping with the struggle United were then having to

avoid relegation from the old First Division.

Many changes have occurred in English football since then but it is still rare to attend an FA Cup semi-final that lives up to expectations.

The big disappointment

yesterday was that neither

team could fulfil their attacking potential.

In United's case this was due to turning up without what old-time football correspondents used to call "shooting boots".

No matter how far the game advances tactically, the fundamentals will always apply – especially when it comes to taking clear-cut chances.

The best of them fell to United but both Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke (playing on the ground when he first came to prominence), prolific scorers this season, were guilty of weak finishing that made David Seaman's job easy every time his goal was seriously threatened.

Unquestionably, United

should have won. They had a clear edge in midfield, where Roy Keane was outstanding, the better attacking ideas, and Jaap Stam the best player on the field.

Errors made when turning out for the Netherlands in last summer's World Cup finals, and the discomfort of Yorke's gambling policy caused him,

suggested to some observers that Stam was not worth the many millions that United had paid for him.

In fact, Stam has proved to be a great acquisition, a centre forward for the year, and his work yesterday was again exemplary.

By contrast Stam's compatriots in the Arsenal team, Dennis Bergkamp and Marc

Overmars, made only peripheral contributions.

Shaken up by a tackle for which Gary Neville was booked after only two minutes, Overmars never got into his stride and eventually gave way to Fredrik Ljungberg.

If United end up on the wrong end of things after Wednesday's replay, they will doubtless look back angrily on the controversial offside decision that ruled out Keane's scoring effort in the first half.

It is probable that the linesman who ruled against Yorke anticipated a centre from Ryan Giggs when instead the Welshman pushed the ball beyond Arsenal's right flank and spurned it to lay on the opportunity that Keane

drove into the roof of Arsenal's net.

Since it seemed by then that one goal would settle it, and they had the measure of Arsenal's attackers, United's frustration was understandable.

Arsenal's best moments came when they were able to free Nicolas Anelka and Bergkamp before United could push up and clamp down on them, but Stam was equal to the threat of Anelka's pace and in any case the final pass was unusually poor.

It was thought before the game that the effect of United's efforts, physical and psychological, in the European Cup against Juventus last week would work against

them but, with numerical advantage in extra time when Nelson Vivas was sent off for his second yellow card, they finished the stronger.

However you look at games like this, by which I mean those that bring the most

powerful clubs into conflict, they are invariably settled by moments of individual inspiration.

As neither team wanted the added commitment of an extra game at this stage of the season they were not short of ambition, but the fact that there was never a moment in which Seaman and Peter Schmeichel had to produce any acrobatics indicates that some sharpening up will be needed before Wednesday.

ROBBIE FOWLER'S legal advisers are considering dropping plans to appeal against the Liverpool striker's six-match ban and record £22,000 fine.

Fowler was suspended for two games following his fracas with his England team-mate, Chelsea's Graeme Le Saux. He received a further four-match ban for mimicking sniffing cocaine as he celebrated a goal against Everton.

Fowler's legal representative, Kevin Dooley, called the punishment "an unjustified and disproportionate sentence," though yesterday he hinted that plans for an appeal may be dropped to prevent the ban spilling over into next season. Without an appeal he could serve out most if not all of his ban this season in relatively meaningless fixtures, with Liverpool's hopes of securing a UEFA Cup place all but over.

"We are reconsidering the situation," Dooley said. "The interests of the club and the supporters are paramount. The club could suffer by any delay in implementing the ban because of any appeal."

Nigerian fans and riot police clashed on Saturday night in Lagos, as protests erupted following their national side's 2-1 defeat to Paraguay in the World Youth Championship. Nigeria's coach, Tunde Disu, was sacked within an hour of the final whistle and had to receive a police escort to leave the stadium.

The defeat was Nigeria's second and could have led to their elimination from the tournament, the first they have hosted at international level. Costa Rica's surprise 2-1 victory over Germany, though meant that Nigeria qualified while the Germans were eliminated.

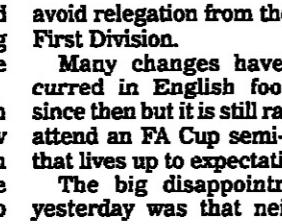
Nigeria now go through to play the Republic of Ireland on Wednesday in Kano. Ghana, Paraguay, Argentina, Croatia, and Mexico have so far joined them in the second round.



Manchester United's Dwight Yorke (left) and Arsenal's Martin Keown fight for the ball in yesterday's goalless FA Cup semi-final at Villa Park

Allsport

Both sides need to polish shooting boots



KEN JONES

PETER REID is preparing for a party after his Sunderland side moved to within one win of the Premiership.

The runaway First Division leaders stretched their unbeaten League run to 12 matches with a 2-0 win over Huddersfield Town, thanks to first-half goals from Niall Quinn and Allan Johnston at the Stadium of Light. Sunderland now head to Bury tomorrow knowing that victory will seal a top-two finish and a delighted Reid said:

"Some of the stuff we played was outstanding. This was similar to our last home game when we started brightly and it was only a matter of time before we went in front."

There was no sign of any nerves from my players. They are just going out and producing performances like that."

The race for the second automatic promotion spot behind Sunderland is still fierce after Bradford City beat Portsmouth 2-1, with their leading scorer Lee Mills and Lee Sharpe on target. City's manager, Paul

Green, in a nerveless first game, then saved his best for last. As Ipswich piled forward in injury time, Jamie Scowcroft headed across the penalty box to Johnson, whose downward header was punched away by the teenager a save that led Rioch to say: "Green could have a good future," but left Burley ruing the miss as he remarked: "We sadly didn't take our chances."

Norwich City Green, Mackay, Hartley, Jackson (Marshall, 55), Fuglistad, Ainsworth, Ray, Mulroney, Sutcliffe, Daiglish (Rowe, 74), Batory, Sutcliffe, Hartley, Hartley, Linton (Candy, 23), Clayton, Smith, Holland, Maguire, Wilkes, Scowcroft, Johnson, Sutcliffe, Adams, Maynor, Potts.

Referee: Tony (Manheim Cross). Attendance: 19,511.

Remaining, Fabian Wilnis slipped a pass through the Norwich defence but Johnson, with time and space, spurned his side's first and best chance of the game, thrashing his shot over Green's crossbar from eight yards. Johnson, on hostile ground anyway, had blotted his copybook earlier by charging Green and then diving on the edge of the area in a vain attempt to win a penalty.

That was not all for the lively striker as seven minutes into the second half he pushed Norwich's Matt Jackson into Green as they chased a ball, leading to Johnson suffering a bloodied nose and being replaced, while Johnson escaped censure.

Norwich were not without their own chances, and with 34 minutes gone, Wilnis rescued Ipswich with a sliding tackle as Philip Mulryne, brought in from Manchester United last month, shaped to shoot from close range. But Rioch's tactics, designed to stifle Ipswich in midfield, duly deprived his strikers of sufficient supply.

Bearing in mind there is no love lost between these two teams, the slogan "Shake Hands on Derby Day" was adopted to pre-empt any unsavoury violence on or off the pitch. But such fears were never truly realised, with any flare-ups few and far between.

Such incidents which did crop up usually involved Johnson, both the good and bad. With six minutes in the first half

Johnson failed to add the finishing touch

BY CONRAD LEACH

Norwich City 0
Ipswich Town 0

ing won at Ipswich earlier this season and won this corresponding fixture in each of the past five years.

However, this draw was enough to put the visitors in the second automatic promotion place, one point ahead of Bradford City, and, as their manager, George Burley said: "We're in second place on merit and at times we looked like the home team. Derby games are always fiercely contested."

Bearing in mind there is no love lost between these two teams, the slogan "Shake Hands on Derby Day" was adopted to pre-empt any unsavoury violence on or off the pitch. But such fears were never truly realised, with any flare-ups few and far between.

Norwich, whose season is effectively dead after a run of only two wins in their last 18 games, nevertheless dealt comfortably with their rivals, who have suffered only one defeat in their last 13 games. If anything, Bruce Rioch's Norwich had earned the tag of favourites to win this particular game, hav-

ing won the title of the year.

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BOOK OF THE WEEK

Hillsborough:
The Truth
by Phil Scratton
Mainstream Publishing
Projects, £9.99
paperback

I READ this book in a fog of anger. At the disaster itself, naturally, but also at the way the establishment ganged together to make sure that the truth – a scarcely believable story of incompetence and mendacity – was never officially told.

Let's establish a couple of facts: Hillsborough was not caused by alcohol and violence; Liverpool people had not, in Brian Clough's words, "killed their own". A combination of police incompetence and structural defects at the ground caused the disaster. How the world reacted to it was conditioned by the first action of the man in charge. Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield (who had no experience of such events) informed Graham Kelly that Gate C had been forced by drunken fans.

In fact it was opened by the police. Kelly innocently passed this on in a TV interview. One is left hoping that Mr Duckenfield, who retired through "ill health" pre-empt disciplinary proceedings, wakes up every morning full of remorse.

Afterwards, the police questioned survivors and bereaved with appalling insensitivity, trying desperately to establish that Leppings Lane that Saturday afternoon had been populated by insensate, aggressive drunkards intent on self-destruction.

Throughout the protracted process of inquest and inquiry, they told despicable and systematic lies at every stage. By the end, my copy was splattered with exclamation marks next to underlined passages.

Here, at random, are one or two of the bits that made my jaw drop: the ambulance driver who tried to drive on to a pitch littered with dead and dying, to be told by a policeman: "You can't go on there, they're still fighting"; another policeman who, when told by the mother of victim Andrew Sefton that he neither smoked nor drank, turned to his colleague and said: "She'll be telling us next he's a bloody virgin"; the remark to a family member by Mr Justice Stuart-Smith on the steps of the Liverpool Maritime Museum before the so-called independent scrutiny: "Have you got a few of your people or are they like the Liverpool fans, turning up at the last minute?"

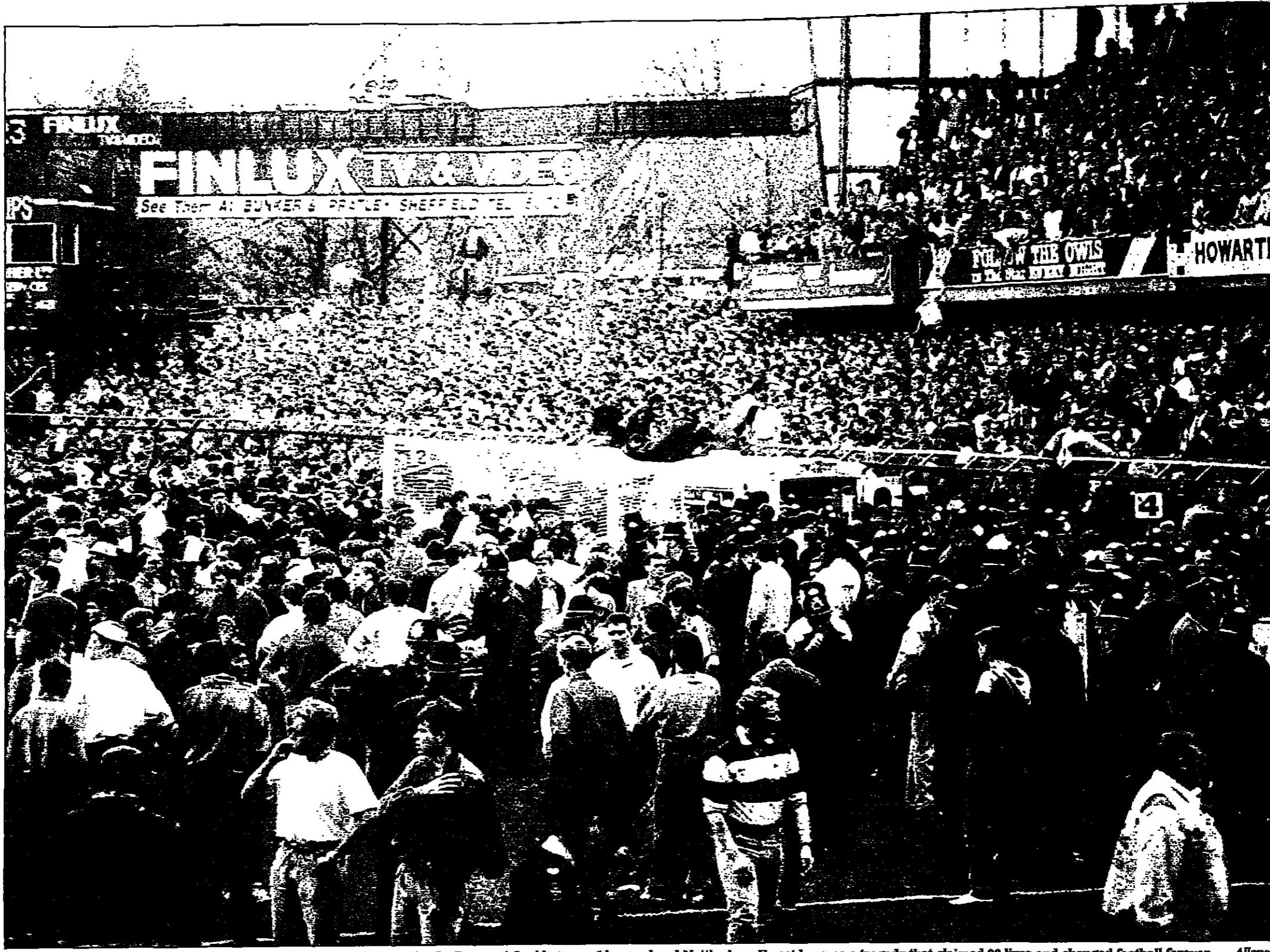
The story of the Hillsborough disaster is, in the end, grimly familiar: the little people, the ordinary people, the you and the me, we don't count. Not really. Alive or dead.

CHRIS MAUME

TOP TEN BOOKS

- 1 Playfair Cricket Annual 1999, edited by Bill Frindall (headline, paperback, £4.99)
- 2 Mainsheet Cricketers' Almanack 1999, edited by Matthew Engel (John Wisden, hardback, £28.99)
- 3 Images of Misrule – A Cricketer's Journey, Steve Waugh (HarperSports, paperback, £9.99)
- 4 The Cricketer's Who's Who 1999, edited by Chris Marshall (Queen Anne Press, paperback, £12.99)
- 5 Hillsborough: The Truth, Phil Scratton (Mainstream, paperback, £9.99)
- 6 The True Story of Hillsborough: The Lie, edited by Paul Casella (Totem Publishing, paperback, £8.99)
- 7 Almanacco Illustrato Del Calcio '99, edited by Arrigo Beltrami (Panini Italy), hardback, £16.99
- 8 The Complete Cricket World Cup 1999, Charles Randall (Carton, paperback, £6.99)
- 9 Rockman: Rugby League Yearbook 1999, Raymond Fletcher (Headline, paperback, £9.99)
- 10 Team Games and Trick Tours, Eddie Brimson (headline, paperback, £6.99) Compiled by Sportspages 94-95 Charing Cross Road, London, 0171 734 5747, 5748, 5749, 5750, www.sportspages.co.uk

Constant vigilance is the key to safety of our football fans



The scene at Hillsborough's Leppings Lane end on 15 April 1989 as the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest became a tragedy that claimed 96 lives and changed football forever Allsport

IT IS a common misconception that it was the all-powerful demands of television which have forced the FA Cup semi-finals to be moved from Saturday to Sunday. Not so. The Football Association itself, worried about the demand for tickets, instituted the live transmissions after the Hillsborough disaster 10 years ago.

Saturday, 15 April, 1989 was a fine sunny day as over 55,000 supporters crowded into the Sheffield Wednesday ground for the semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest. Two months before, I had been appointed chief executive of the Football Association and was looking forward to my first Cup semi-final in that new role.

My heart sank shortly after the 3pm kick-off when some supporters at the Leppings Lane end had gained access to the perimeter track. A police officer strode on to the pitch to instruct the referee, Ray Lewis of Surrey, to halt the game. There had been a fatal crush on the Leppings Lane terrace, when a Peter Beardshot hit the crossbar at the far end. The worst disaster in the history of British football claimed 96 lives. Most of those who died were under 25 years of age.

What happened at Hillsborough to result in such a tragic and wasteful loss of life? By 2.30pm, the two central pens of the Leppings Lane terrace, to the left of the main stand, were virtually at capacity. But, to relieve a dangerous crush outside the ground, the police ordered open an exit gate at the back of the stand. About 2,000 Liverpool fans



This week marks the 10th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster in which 96 Liverpool fans died. Graham Kelly, who, as chief executive of the FA, was present on that fateful day, recounts his experiences and details the lessons learned

hurried in and most went down a tunnel to the central pens, thereby inadvertently causing the crush which led to the deaths.

Shortly after the referee took the players to the dressing-rooms I went to the police control box, which ironically, overlooked the Leppings Lane terrace, to try to find out what had caused the accident. Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield, in charge of his first major match, told me the Liverpool supporters had forced open an exit gate. Although it soon became clear that the match would not be re-started, the police would not confirm this, for fear of blocking access to the stadium for the emergency vehicles.

After an hour of confusion, during which many heroic acts of assistance were carried out, some by young members of the Sheffield Wednesday staff, I began a series of media interviews which lasted for days. Initially, I recounted the two stories I had heard: Duckenfield's and the opposing view given by fans, i.e. that the gate had been opened by officials. On BBC's Match

of the Day that evening I said football should move fans' preference away from standing on the terraces.

The late Lord Justice Taylor, subsequently the Lord Chief Justice, was appointed by the then Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd, to conduct an inquiry and to make recommendations about crowd control and safety. He rejected the police's claim that they could not have anticipated a large, uncooperative crowd in the final half hour before the kick-off, saying it was foreseeable that large numbers would arrive in a concentrated period.

Though he accepted that the presence of an unruly minority who had drunk too much, aggravated the problem, as did poor signage and ticketing, it was, he reported, "a blunder of the first magnitude" not to direct the surging supporters to the wing pens of the terrace, where there was plenty of space for them. There was inefficient monitoring of the crowd levels on the terrace, and nobody realised the danger of allowing too many people to rush into the central pens.

Many police officers, even some in the control box, failed to realise at first that they were contending with a safety issue; they were trying to prevent a pitch invasion, their minds conditioned by two decades of hooliganism. I made the same initial mistake from my seat in the directors' box. Indeed, there did develop a possibility of conflict as the Liverpool fans became angry at the incomprehension of the Nottingham Forest supporters at the Kop end, who also read it wrong. A line of police was deployed across the pitch to prevent confrontation.

Civil claims for compensation were later settled, mainly by the police, but also by Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, Eastwood and Partners (their consultant engineers), and the Sheffield City Council, who had responsibility under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act for issuing the safety certificate.

Chief Superintendent Duckenfield left the force on the grounds of ill health. The Police Complaints Authority declined to pursue a case against Superintendent Bob Murray,

who was in charge of the control box, because it was thought unfair to proceed against the more junior of the two officers alone. However, the courts have recently given the go-ahead for a private prosecution of Duckenfield and Murray.

Lord Justice Taylor was very critical of the way football had treated its supporters, and his report was a wide-ranging examination of the state of the game, containing many measures designed to improve its future.

Notwithstanding the Judge's censure, the game was soon to find itself grateful to Lord Taylor's thoughtful consideration of its many problems, for he swiftly consigned to the dustbin the Conservative government's cherished identity card proposal. He thought it would simply be unworkable.

The Taylor Report contained many suggestions that have since helped to transform football into a safer family sport. Ticket touting was made illegal. Obscene or racist chanting became illegal, as did invading the pitch and throwing missiles.

Effectively stewarding

superseized expensive policing. Medical services were vastly improved. Emergency access to the pitch has been improved as perimeter fences have been removed or reduced.

But it was Lord Justice Taylor's primary recommendation that acted as the real catalyst for football dragging itself towards the 21st century.

He proposed that big matches should be all-seater. The Government quickly legislated to this effect and

also reduced the Pool Betting Duty on condition the rebate was directed towards the installation of seats.

The scene was set for massive improvements in facilities at nearly every ground. The Football Trust channelled many millions of pounds into the game.

Hillsborough was the latest in a long line of football disasters. The 80s alone had seen deaths at Bradford City and Heysel, following the Ibroux and Burnend Park tragedies in 1971 and 1946 respectively. At Wembley's first ever FA Cup final in 1923 the attendance far exceeded the safe capacity of the stadium.

I pray there will be no recurrence in the new millennium. However, notwithstanding the many improvements in crowd control, when large numbers gather to follow a passionate encounter it is never possible to give absolute guarantees of 100 per cent safety. Organisers must always remain vigilant for, as Lord Taylor said, "Complacency is the enemy of safety."

Also, is it too much to hope that, given the subsequent influx of television cash, the top clubs might take a little notice of Lord Taylor's wish that his recommendation would not lead to unwarranted increases in the price of tickets?

At the very least, football owes it to the bereaved of Hillsborough not to exploit the memory. England today would not be in a position to bid for an all-seated World Cup 2006 it was not for the disaster that led to the prompt installation of those seats.

THE WEEK AHEAD: MAIN EVENTS

TOMORROW

Football: Leeds United v Liverpool. David O'Leary's Europe-bound team bid to lengthen their unbeaten run against a Liverpool side which is making headlines for the wrong reasons. The season's only real chance soon enough for more膝伤. What would Shanks have made of it all?

Cricket: England play Pakistan in the Sharjah Cup. Improvements will be needed if they are to avoid a defeat as comprehensive as the one inflicted by Pakistan last Wednesday.

TUESDAY

Football: Big night in the Nationwide League. Apart from Sunderland, who are set to go up, First Division promotion contenders Bradford City and Bolton are also in action and all three meet sides starting relegation in the face. Bottom club Bristol City visit the Reebok Stadium. Port Vale entertain the Yorkshire side and Peter Reid's match-winning machine travels to Bury. There are two all-ticker matches in the Second Division: champions-elect Fulham play high-

flying Gillingham while Wigan, with hopes of a play-off place, meet second-placed Preston. The division's surprise package, Walsall, travel to fellow promotion hopefuls AFC Bournemouth.

WEDNESDAY

Cricket: The second one-day international between the West Indies and Australia. Unlike the Test series, we are guaranteed a result with even matches in the series. The West Indies' first win came yesterday's 0-0 draw. Arsenal and Manchester United try again at Villa Park in a replay of their FA Cup semi-final. Chelsea vs Madrid. The Spanish are trying to make up Premiership ground on United and Arsenal. Ganluca "we can't win the league" Vialli continues to spout his negative messages but Chelsea are not yet out of it despite his protestations. In the Second Division Manchester City continue their fight to return to the big time with a home fixture against Luton. After a shaky start to the season, City have settled down and have made steady headway on the leaders. Fulham may have flown, but Preston and Walsall are looking over their shoulders.

FRIDAY

Cricket: The final of the Sharjah Cup. Rugby League: Leeds have made a faltering start to their Super League campaign despite making the Challenge Cup final but they will have to make short work of Hull if they are to retain any genuine title ambitions.

SATURDAY

Snooker: And so it begins. The World Snooker Championship, which ends on Bank Holiday Monday 3 May. Late nights in front of the TV watching new faces break through and the old guard holding on. The pool results will be reflected in the final standings but the result would be a win for Jimmy White, the best player never to have won etc etc. but, unlike racing, snooker is not noted for dishing up fairytale endings.

Rugging: A week after Aintree comes another Grand National, this time the Scottish version at Ayr. There are fewer many fallers in this marathon due to the kinder Ayr fences but it doesn't make it any easier to find the winner. Get the pin out. On the Flat, Newbury stages an important 2000 Guineas trial, the Greenham Stakes.

TODAY

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THE WEEK AHEAD: SPORT ON TELEVISION

TODAY

Clubs football from the Netherlands and United States. Satellite highlights

12.00-16.00 C4 Racing from Newmarket and Cheltenham. 14.10-14.45 BBC2 Sporting Greats With Ellery Hanley.

THURSDAY

Terrestrial

13.55-16.00 BBC1 Ice Hockey and Dangerous Games. Includes Asian football.

SATURDAY

Grand National

16.00-18.00 BBC1 Live Tennis More from Barcelona. 18.00-21.00 BBC1 Live Football From the World Youth Championships in Nigeria. 19.00-19.00 21.00-23.00 Sky Sports 2 Live Greyhounds From Hall Green.

SUNDAY

Terrestrial

13.30-16.30 BBC1 Sunday Grand National includes the smaller Leicester v Saracens rugby union and Superbowl.

14.45-17.00 C4 Football Italia

17.00-21.00 BBC1 Marathon

Marathon. See how far the race goes. They shorten their legs. Oh how laugher.

20.50-22.00 C4 Motor Sport

22.30-00.35 ITV The Sports Show

Evening Holmes hosts.

00.55-04.30 C5 Ice Hockey

Includes Asian football.

04.30-05.30 C5 Live and Dangerous

More from Barcelona.

15.00-18.30 Sky Sports 1 Live Football More from Barcelona.

18.30-21.00 BBC1 Live Football

From the World Youth Championships in Nigeria.

19.30-21.30 BBC1 Live Football

From the World Youth Championships in Nigeria.

Malaysian Grand Prix, then at 06.00 it's back to Australia for the second Superbikes race.

SUNDAY

Terrestrial

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14.45-17.00 C4 Football Italia

17.00-21.00 BBC1 Marathon

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20.50-22.00 C4 Motor Sport

22.30-00.35 BBC1 Marathon

Marathon. See how far the race goes. They shorten their legs. Oh how laugher.

00.45-01.45 BBC2 Snooker

03.30-04.40 C5 Ice Hockey

Saturday

09.00-11.45 Eurosport London Marathon

15.00-18.30 Sky Sports 1 Live Football

From the World Youth Championships in Nigeria.

18.30-21.00 Eurosport Live Rugby League Castleford v Wakefield.

Five Nations' Championship: Howarth encapsulates transformation from clumsy incompetence to Red splendour



Spirit of victory: Wales's Neil Jenkins (left) watches team-mate Colin Charvis charge through a tackle from Jonny Wilkinson during his side's 32-31 triumph over England at Wembley yesterday

David Ashdown

Welsh leave their mark in history

AND SO, amazingly, there is a little corner of north-west London that will be forever Wales. How wonderfully bizarre that one of the most thrilling feats in the history of Welsh rugby should take place in a home match played on enemy territory, where their temporary residency had previously yielded four defeats in five matches. All that and much more besides, not least the run of five consecutive defeats at England's hands, disappeared in the third minute of injury time at Wembley yesterday when Scott Gibbs swerved across the line with his hand in the air.

Wales's victory presented Scotland with the final Five Nations' title, but the champions' euphoria last night can hardly have matched that of the men in red, who had toiled through a difficult first half but



RICHARD WILLIAMS AT WEMBLEY

by scoring 10 tries in a 49-14 win over France. Two tries were enough to do the job for yesterday's winners, against England's three. The difference, in terms of points, was the contribution of Jenkins, who kicked nervously and flawlessly, landing every one of his six penalties and two conversions. It may be cruel to point it out, but Jonny Wilkinson's failure to land his eminently kickable conversion of Steve Hanley's 20th-minute try, the boy wonder's only miss in seven attempts, turned out to be the difference between victory and defeat for his team.

The brave Jenkins had kept Wales in the game during a first half in which little went right for them as they tried to make Twenty Clive Woodward pay for his temerity in giving an England debut to a man named after

Wales's greatest player: Jenkins's 18 points, against England's half-time aggregate of 25, were kicked into the teeth of a stiff breeze that must have added an effective 10 metres or so to the two angled kicks from close to 40 metres that he landed after 25 minutes and in first-half injury time.

Nevertheless, the interval was spent in contemplation of England's general superiority. With the wind at their backs, the white shirts swept through the red defence like racing yachts slipping past a line of tethered yachts. They made their point as early as the second minute, when Mike Catt's exchange with Wilkinson ushered Dan Luger in for a try that rocked the Welsh confidence. Twenty minutes later, Richard Cockerell and Tim Rodber worked a nifty line-out trick which al-

lowed Catt once again to provide the quick pass for Hanley to smash across the line.

But odds things were already happening. Craig Quinnell, slow to rise from a ruck on the halfway line, found that by the time he got to his feet the ball had been across the field and come back again, putting him in the perfect position to act as an auxiliary wing. Fed by the nearest back, he galumphed up the line until he met Hanley, the fit sin prodigy. The younger Quinnell hit the Sale boy, supposedly the English Jonah Lomu, with exactly the abrupt ferocity that the All Black had flattened Tony Underwood on that amazing day in Cape Town in 1995.

But by this time any admiration of the spirit in which Wales approached the match was being submerged by concern

about their naivety and clumsiness. Both defects were in evidence three minutes before half-time, when Shane Howarth and Gareth Thomas went for Matt Dawson's high kick, their painful collision inviting Richard Hill to collect the loose ball and notch England's third try.

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A PTS
Scotland	4	3	0	1	20	79
England	4	3	0	1	23	78
Wales	4	2	0	2	10	26
Ireland	4	3	0	3	66	92
France	4	1	0	3	75	100
RESULTS:						
6 Feb: Ireland 9						
10 France 10; Scotland 33; Wales 20;						
20 Feb: Wales 23; Ireland 29;						
24 March 21; 6						
March 15; France 33; Scotland 27; 20 March;						
21 March 10; Scotland 30; Ireland 13; Saturday: France 22; Scotland 36; Yesterday: Wales 32; England 31						

Up to that point, Howarth had been having a bit of a shocker. This was a match in which his defensive qualities were most urgently required, given that Wales's midfield defence was offering all the deterrent properties of a bunch of lace doilies. But it was he who changed the mood at the start of the second period, first kicking a long clearance that Neil Back knocked on, and then, barely a minute later, looping round the right-side cover with Jenkins's floated pass in his hands, to score the try that gave Jenkins the chance to bring Wales level for the first time.

Every clubhouse in the principality should have a shard of stone or a mound of soil, preserved above the bar like pieces of the true cross, as a memento of the day when all the tribulations and humiliations of the recent past were most gloriously swept away.

Gibbs ends England's dreams

continued from page 1

has always been described in the valleys as "the shoulder charge from heaven".

Jenkins, swinging the priceless tool of his trade like Tiger Woods in a smooth groove, banged his penalty punt from one 22 to the other, and when Chris Wyatt, magnificent in the Welsh second-row, won the line-out with an arching stretch of the back, Gibbs was duly released on his glory run into history. England, a point adrift and horribly aware that they had

only 60 short seconds to conjure a reply, quickly worked Mike Catt into drop-goal range, but Catt is no Jenkins. He sliced his opportunity and knew instantly that he would not be granted a second chance.

The comforting events of the first half, which included a slashing try for Dan Luger on two minutes and an impudent first-cap gallop to the line for the back, Gibbs was duly released on his glory run into history. England, a point adrift and horribly aware that they had

some productive ploughing from the tractors in the front five, denied the Welsh meaningful possession for minutes on end: indeed, the "home" side, so to speak, had to wait until injury time to put together anything resembling a sustained attacking move. And, no, it did not result in a try. Just another Jenkins penalty, his sixth.

Indeed, when Gareth Thomas and Shane Howarth made the mother of all non-senses of a straightforward Dawson punt two minutes before the break – the unflagging

Hill was there to hoover up the spilled ball and crash over in Mark Taylor's tackle – the whole affair looked done and dusted. No such English luck. Back's uncharacteristic fumble in the opening minute of the second half gave the Welsh the platform to manufacture a clever right-flag try for Howarth and from that point, it was an afternoon for neutrinos. Most of them, if not all, turned out to be wearing white shirts rather than red.

"I thought it was close to the posts but really I felt comfortable all day," Jenkins said. "I'm

so chuffed for the boys, the management and all the fans. It's been brilliant."

Howarth said he owed his thanks for his effort to a pinpoint ball from Jenkins.

"Thanks Jenks," he said on television after the game.

Asked if he had known anything like it as an All Black, the full-back said: "I've never experienced anything like this. It's great to repay the fans like that. We didn't repay them in the first half but we repaid them with a bit of magic from the two old fellas in the midfield."

WALES: S Howarth (Sale); G Thomas (Cardiff), M Taylor (Swansea), S Gibbs (Swansea), D James (Pontypridd); N Jenkins (Pontypridd), R Howarth (Cardiff, capt); P Price (Cardiff), C Williams (Swansea), B Evans (Swansea), C Quinell (Richmond), C Wyatt (Lancelli), C Charles (Swansea), S Cuthill (Lancelli), J Williams (Neath), R Rees (Cardiff), M Williams (Rheola), P Thomas, 63; A Lewis (Cardiff) for Rogers, 68; D Young (Cardiff) for Evans, 68.

ENGLAND: M Perry (Bath); D Llewellyn (Cardiff), 6-11; M Williams (Newcastle), S Williams (Sale); M Catt (Bath), M Dawson (Northampton); J Lees (Harlequins), R Cockerell (Leicester), D Wilson (London Wasps), T Robinson (Leicester), T Rodber (Nottingham), R Hill (Saracens), L Dallaglio (Wasps, capt), N Back (Leicester). Referee: A Watson (South Africa).

Telfer walks tall as he talks of 'tremendous' achievement

BY MIKE TURNER

the wooden spoon at the start of the tournament, Telfer's men exceeded all expectations.

In John Leslie and Gregor Townsend they had two of the stars of the competition and few will deny them this accolade. Telfer's third championship as Scottish coach, following the previous Grand Slam triumphs in 1984 and 1990.

"It is raining up here," he said from his Galashiels home, "but the sun is shining in my house. England seemed to be coasting I didn't think Wales could do it. But they had a chance to kick which would have taken them nine points clear and I suppose they have paid for that mistake."

It is a fitting end to a campaign which saw Scotland score 16 tries, culminating in Saturday's record win.

The favourites to receive

don't think anyone can deny our brand of rugby has been entertaining," he added. "We have tried to be enterprising and given the crowds something to get excited about."

"England conceded six tries in the competition and we scored three of those. We have deserved our success."

"We were supposed to be wooden spoonists and I think there is only myself and the rest of the squad who felt we were going to do as well as we did," he added.

The No 8 Stuart Reid, who was winning only his second cap in Saturday's game, spent the afternoon in an Edinburgh bar with fellow Scotland heroes Scott Murray, Martin Leslie and John Leslie.

"If they had taken their chances there wouldn't have been such a nervous ending. I

Unlike Telfer their celebrations were rather more traditional. "It is fantastic, brilliant,"

said Reid. "We're going to have a few beers and a bottle of champagne."

"Obviously, I only came in for the one game, but I've been around the team all the time and they have been absolutely superb."

"But no one deserves this more than Jim Telfer."

Reid then added his name to that of Kenny Logan and captain Gary Armstrong in pleading with the man who formed part of the coaching team on the 1997 British Lions tour to stay in the job.

"He's honest and hard-working. There is no greater compliment than to see Scotland winning the title again under his guidance."

"But results like yesterday only come along once in a lifetime. These are moments I will cherish forever."

England's Lawrence Dallaglio is bowed by defeat PA



Mistakes cost Triple Crown

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

IT WAS a catalogue of errors from start to finish. The final one came from Wembley's smooth announcer, who managed to give the wrong score-line while the delirious Wales team and their delighted supporters were celebrating the marvellous Scott Gibbs try which won it for them.

But given the number of errors Wales had committed in the game there was more than an element of luck to it. The Welsh mistakes were generally a team affair, but for sheer individual contributions England flanker Neil Back took the honours. He was who curiously hung on to the ball when Wales were awarded a penalty.

When South African referee Andre Watson called him to account there appeared to be an exchange of views which resulted in England conceding another 10 metres. And those were enough to bring the lethal boot of Neil Jenkins into range. That kick on the half hour brought Wales right back into the game. Then within two minutes of the second half, Back ran back into the England 22 to cover a deep searching kick from Shane Howarth.

He turned around as the ball sailed over his head, but when he got his hands to it he knocked on. The Leicester flanker booted the ball into touch, but the referee had spotted the error, and, from the scrum, Wales set up the attack from which Howarth was sent over by a beautiful Neil Jenkins miss pass.

That try by the New Zealand-born Howarth went some way to making amends

for the crassest of mistakes late in the first half.

The neatest of chip kicks by England scrum-half Matt Dawson threw the Welsh defence into confusion – well two of their number at least. Right wing Gareth Thomas appeared to have gathered the ball safely, not having taken his eyes off it since as it described its wicked parabola.

Unfortunately the ball was also under close observation by Howarth. He, too, kept his eyes on the ball and, inevitably, they collided. Given the level of noise within Wembley it was not surprising that neither of them heard the other.

Thomas spilled the ball, and it rolled obligingly for Richard Hill, who was dutifully following up. The England flanker scooped up the loose offering and, despite being tackled, somehow bounced his way over the line.

The frequency of turnovers

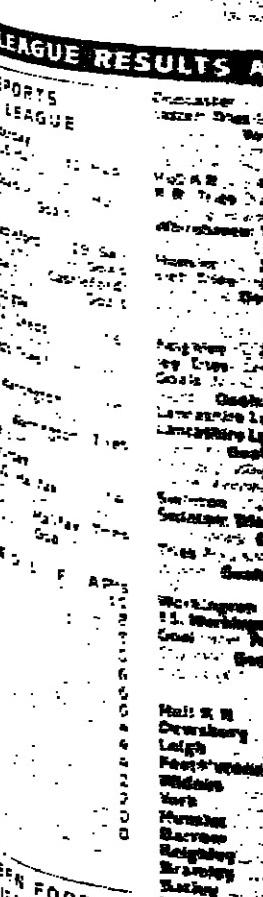
by Wales was appalling for this level. It seemed that every time a Welshman came into contact with the opposition he would surrender the ball.

And when they were not

turning over possession they were either not recycling quickly enough, thereby allowing England to reform their defences, or they were getting caught offside or not releasing.

But they were not alone in a less than perfect performance.

England, too, fell foul of over-eagerness and, perhaps, at the very end, of slackness. The Triple Crown price paid for the mistake was victory, the championship, and the Grand Slam.



Joe in 150

Five Nations Championship: Telfer's troops run hosts ragged to set up title triumph

France feel the power of Scotland

By IAN BORTHWICK at Stade de France

France 22 **Scotland** 36

Tries Domini, Juliet, Nnamack, Conversions Aucagne 2 Penalties Aucagne

Half-time: 22-33

Attendance: 80,000

NEXT TIME, perhaps the band at the Stade de France will make sure they hit the right tempo before kick-off. Despite the brilliant sunshine and the sparkling spring conditions in Paris on Saturday, la Fédération de la Police Nationale managed to turn "Flower of Scotland" into an unrecognisable dirge, playing the Scottish anthem as if it were a funeral march.

Which in some ways it was. But the only thing being buried in this magnificent stadium on Saturday was the pride of French rugby, and apart from one flash of individual brilliance by Thomas Castaigné in the first minute of play, the Tricolores spent the next 79 minutes stumbling down a road to self-destruction.

Although Castaigné was injured doing so (a knee injury putting him out for seven weeks) his 50-metre break from a tapped penalty produced a fine try for Emile Nnamack. But the Scots immediately unleashed an extraordinary sequence of play that the quality of which has rarely been matched in a Five Nations international, running in five tries in the space of 20 minutes.

"It was as if every time we had the ball we scored a try. For a time it was like the other team wasn't even on the park."

Breaking the French defensive system with remarkable ease, playing with confidence, flair and consummate ball-handling skill, the Scots shot to a 36-12 lead after 27 minutes. With the forwards supplying an endless stream of quick, quality possession, the Scottish back-line clicked immediately into top gear. Gregor Townsend was in exquisite touch, repeatedly scything through the French defence. The rejuvenated Alan Tait picked up two tries, while with his distribution skills and eye for the half-gap John Leslie once again dominated the midfield.

Perhaps even more satisfying for the Scots though was the quality and precision of their support play which enabled them to keep the ball alive. Open-side flanker Martin Leslie was outstanding in the role, picking up two tries for his pains, while the second-row of Stuart Grimes and Scott Murray proved itself to be one of the most mobile and dynamic in world rugby.

"We wanted to play a wide game, the sort of game that they used to such good effect against us last year," said their captain Gary Armstrong. "It worked, and we cut through them like a knife through butter."

France struck back with a soft try to left-wing Christophe Dominici from broken play, and the dazzling breaks were all Scottish, while the pedestrian



Scotland's Alan Tait evades the French wing Christophe Dominici to score the first of his two tries Allsport

enabled France to struggle back to 33-22 at half-time.

After eight tries and 55 points, the second half was only three points apart, with only three points (a penalty to Kenny Logan) being scored.

"We were ridiculous," sighed Nnamack who, with Dominici was one of the few French players to come out of the match with credit. "As soon as the pace of the game sped up, we were in difficulty. We were powerless, we could have been beaten by 50 points."

So if Scotland return home with renewed hope and confidence in the depth and quality of their players, time is running out for France in the countdown

French descended even further into a spiral of bungling, blundering desperation.

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But this was to be a game of contrasts, with Scotland registering their biggest ever total against France in the Five Nations' Championship and mesmerising the French with their Caledonian flair. The backs, the quick hands, the dazzling breaks were all

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Gatland cracks the Irish whip

BY MARK RICHARDS
at Lansdowne Road

Ireland 1 Italy 39

Italy 30

when skipper Paddy Johns rolled over to secure a win that had barely looked likely 40 minutes previously.

"We used the ball better in the second half, made fewer mistakes and were a lot quicker with our handling," Gatland said. "In fact the backline was probably better than at any time this season." Gatland conceded that Ireland's performance was not polished, saying: "Rome was not built in a day. This is all about team building."

The Italian coach, George Costas, was disappointed that his side threw away victory. "We actually scored five tries this afternoon and conceded two silly tries out of the three," he said. "We tried very hard, but our concentration dropped and that was very disappointing." The Italian coach added: "It was very significant that we gave at least 10 balls away, and at this level you can't afford to do that."

Gatland also made a tactical switch, withdrawing Victor Costello, switching Dion O'Cuinneagain and Costello's No 8 position and throwing on Andy Ward in the vacated open-side flanker's role. Both the rants and the changes paid dividends as Ireland dominated the second half, running in four tries and restricting the Italians to just one try and conversion.

Full-back Conor O'Shea began the fightback with a try in the right-hand corner. Eric Elwood narrowed the gap to four points and in the 55th minute the Lions' front rowers, Paul Wallace and Keith Wood, were brought off the bench at the expense of Justin Fitzpatrick and Ross Nedale.

On the hour, Ireland moved to within a point of the Italians courtesy of an Elwood penalty and seven minutes later they took the lead through Girvan Dempsey's unconverted try.

O'Shea picked up the loose ball from a scrum to run under the posts for a try after 72 minutes, and in injury-time the Irish pack concluded affairs

with a try and a conversion.

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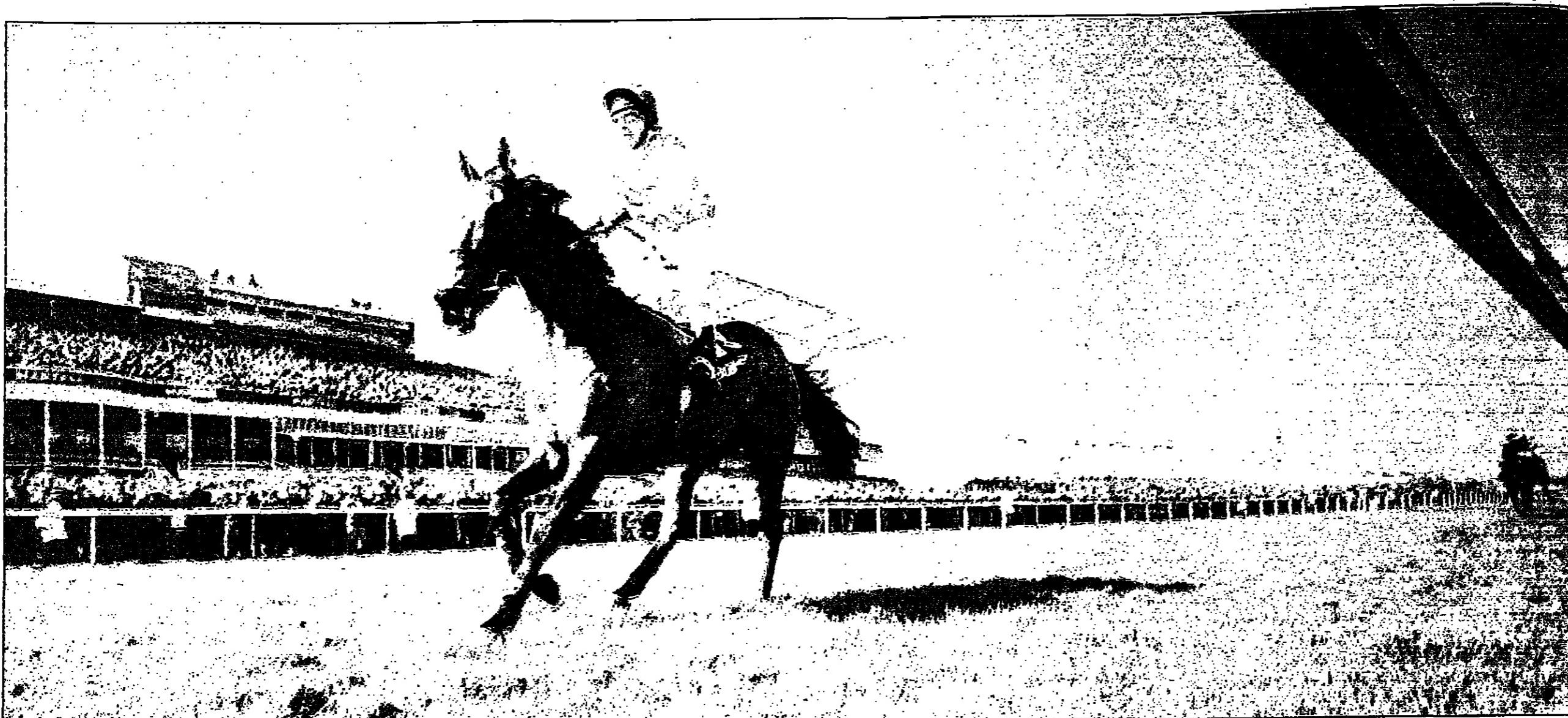
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Standing ovation: Paul Carberry has time to rise from the saddle to take the acclaim of the Aintree crowd as he comes home 10 lengths clear of Blue Charm in the Grand National on Saturday

David Ashdown

Carberry has Grand reason to party

AS HE CAME in after winning the Grand National on Bobbyjo it was rather odd to see Paul Carberry swinging from a bar in the weighing-room roof. Usually he's leaning on them.

When you think Carberry, you don't have to intellectualise. Just limit it to: bloody good rider, bloody good party man. When this Irishman visited Blarney Castle the stone was away having its 25,000-kiss service. You could write down more from an interview with Marcel Marceau than you get from the 25-year-old, but he always says one thing. "Do you know all those terrible stories they tell about me?" he asks. "They're all true." They call him Alice in the weighing room but he could also quite easily be the Mad Hatter.

By RICHARD EDMONDSON
Racing Correspondent

also happens to be among the most popular men in racing.

Paul Carberry stories are legend in racing. A theme to them is drinking. And we are not talking milkshake here. A feature of Saturday's race was how Carberry made great play of the fact that he was in bed by 9pm the previous evening. (He usually isn't, well not the pm bit anyway). The jockey appeared to think he had made some sort of Faustian sacrifice.

Despite their meagre physical proportions jumps jockeys are not the lightest drinkers on the planet. Considerable celebration is a rite of men who regularly put life and limb on the line. And among the cohort Carberry is Group class. He

ables us to see Carberry on horseback chasing quarry over rough terrain. Out in the country, "Alice" will try to jump anything. If he had heard the farmyard gossip, Carberry would certainly have been the man to partner the cow on its jump over the moon. He makes his horses vault and he makes them brave as he is.

So it was on Saturday, as Bobbyjo treated the nation's most formidable fences as if they were rows of matchboxes.

The Grand National is a grand challenge for horsemen like Carberry, an opportunity to test skill and nerve against this most fearsome Medusa. As a 16-year-old he rode Joseph Knibb in the Fox Hunters' over the big, shaggy obstacles. The

horse buried him at Becher's Brook and undertakers almost had to do the same. But Liverpool continued to hold its fascination for him.

The plan for '99 was to switch off Bobbyjo and get him relaxed. Carberry could not have done it better had he brought the horse a mug of cocoa and read him a story. The Irish horse skipped round the inside, distinguishable largely by his pilot's posture (bottom buffing the sky).

There was no mistake, which was just as well as Aintree does not allow for many of those. The Grand National meeting always delights and shocks. Horses have perished this week, just as they will always do at the highest level of

competition when every sinew and bone is subjected to the severest pressure.

The National is itself claimed yet another for its grim historical log when Eudipe went at Becher's on the second circuit. He was driven into the fence by Tony McCoy just at a time when his enthusiasm for the fray seemed to be ebbing.

The gelding fell in a nauseating death thrash, his neck broken

- some reward for a season of consistency at the top level.

Bobbyjo was still snoozing along at that stage and was still only sixth two obstacles out. Then he got his wake-up call and the race was over. Carberry pointed his vehicle down the outside and the acceleration was so instant that there was

time for a prolonged victory salute. He stood up in the stirrups, knees locked, tall enough for a helicopter to have come down and whisked him away.

The Bobbys and Jos who had backed him up and down the nation may have been slightly unnerved by this gesture, but there was no chance of Carberry falling off. His balance is unmatched. He could sleep on a washing line.

In the winners' enclosure there was jubilation. There are no better winners in the racing world than the Irish, people who might go delirious in victory but somehow manage to carry you with them rather than feeling green-eyed on the outside. In the adjacent berth to Bobbyjo, Blue Charm's stable lass was

sobbing through a combination of pride and relief. It's like that with the Grand National.

When they got Paul Carberry down from the weighing-room beam, plans for the preliminary stages of the party up to the millennium had probably already been established.

Among this maelstrom was Bobby Burke, the winning owner who bought Bobbyjo in a transaction in a Galway hotel. Burke is in the pub business himself (he owns 22 watering holes in the London area), which by no means distances himself instinctively from the Carberrys. Their party (which is just warming up) will be a memorable one. Those that emerge from it will be asking what won the Grand National.

VIEW FROM THE SADDLE: 32 NATIONAL TALES

Paul Carberry (Bobbyjo): "We had a good start and were handy throughout. He jumped very well and as we jumped the last I knew he would quicker. It can't get any better than that. It'll take a while to set in but it was going to bed at nine last night."

Lorcan Wyer (Blue Charm): "I thought there was still a circuit to go coming to the second last as he was going so easy. He had a look round and saw the wizard, Paul Carberry, and he whizzed by me. My horse began to get very tired and he did well to hang on to second place in the end."

Richard Dunwoody (Call It A Day): "He gave me a superb ride and he made only one mistake. I thought I was going to win at the last but he got tired and then stayed on again from The Elbow."

Adrian Maguire (Addington Boy): "We had a chance two out and he gave me a great ride."

Brian Harding (Feels Like Gold): "I had a great ride. He ran a lot better than I thought he would. The ground was a bit quick."

Philip Hinde (Brave Highlander): "It's unfortunate he had an interrupted preparation but I was able to ride a race on him which is a good thing."

Berry Fenton (Kendal Cavalier): "I was delighted with him. He was nearly brought down at Becher's second time round."

Carl Llewellyn (Earth Summit): "We both enjoyed it very much, though he was nearly brought down at Becher's second time round."

Jimmy Frost (St Mellion Fairway): "He got round and beat one or two, but the ground was too fast for him."

Rodney Ferriant (Samlee): "I had an absolutely brilliant spin. I was fifth or sixth of the way to Becher's second time. But then I burst a blood vessel, otherwise I think he would have run very well."

Andrew Thornton (Naithen Lad): "He jumped from fence to fence. Lorcan [Wyer] asked how I was going at one stage. I said 'fantastic', but I didn't know how well he was going."

Norman Williamson (General Wolfe): "He ran a great race. He went on the ground but wasn't quick enough. The speed horses went past him at Valentine's and he wants it softer."

Graham Bradley (Sunny Bay): "I was a bit disappointed with him. He never travelled well. The ground was too quick for him."

Dean Gallagher (Back Bar): "Great ride. We got round in our own time."

Robert Thornton (Strong Chairman): "I had a great ride for a circuit."

Garnett Cotter (Merry People): "I rode him to get placed and I think he would have done but for falling."

Tony Dobbins (Avro Anson): "We had a good position all the way. He gave me a good ride but wasn't in love with it in the end."

Steve Wynne (Coome Hill): "He gave me a great ride for a circuit, but he has been tubed recently and gradually ran out of steam."

Tom Jenkins (Commercial Artist): "He gave me a great ride for a circuit, but he has been tubed recently and gradually ran out of steam."

Sean Curran (Cavalo): "The saddle slipped. He had jumped great and was going well at the time."

Brendan Powell (Mudshin): "I just fell off. He was making heavy weather of it. I should have pulled him up after two or three."

Timmy Murphy (Tamarindo): "He met Becher's all wrong and that was that. I think he might be a bit lame."

Richard Johnson (Baronet): "He jumped the first three very well, in fact he jumped the fourth very well too, but landed very steeply, lost his back legs and did the splits."

Joe Tizzard (Double Thriller): "He jumped a bit too big and came down on his head."

Robert Widger (Choisy): "I had a marvellous ride. He was struggling when he fell."

Richard Guest (Frazer Island): "He was cantering when he fell and we would have been in the first four."

Conor O'Dwyer (Cyborg): "I had a good ride while it lasted. He enjoyed himself on his old and clever and wasn't going to do anything he didn't have to."

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Adie Smith (Castle Coin): "I got knocked off five out - two horses knocked me over. He gave me a great ride till then and jumped well. He didn't fall, I was sandwiched."

Mick Fitzgerald (Fiddling The Facts): "She gave me a dream ride and jumped superbly, but she overjumped Becher's and paid the penalty."

Tony McCoy (Eudipe): "I don't feel too good myself and I feel very bad for the horse."

Chris Maude (Camelot Knight): "I was cutted. The poor lad just had nowhere to go and he was knocked over. He was going very well at the time - he stays on and I'm sure we would have been in the first four."

Baronet 12-1 (fell)

Cyborg 50-1 (pulled up)

Double Thriller 7-1 (fell)

Feels Like Gold 50-1 5 lengths

Brave Highlander 50-1 14 lengths

Kendal Cavalier 28-1 18 lengths

Earth Summit 16-1 head

St Mellion Fairway 200-1 short-head

Samlee 50-1 14 lengths

Nahthen Lad 14-1 2 lengths

General Wolfe 18-1 distance

Sunny Bay 12-1 1 1/4 lengths

Back Bar 200-1 5 lengths

Strong Chairman 50-1 1 1/4 lengths

Merry People 200-1 3/4 lengths

Avro Anson 40-1 4 lengths

Coome Hill 25-1 24 lengths

Last

Commercial Artist 200-1 (pulled up)

17th

16th

15th

14th

13th

12th

11th

10th

9th

8th

7th

6th

5th

4th

3rd

2nd

1st

22nd

21st

20th

19th

18th

17th

16th

15th

14th

13th

12th

11th

10th

9th

8th

7th

6th

5th

4th

3rd

2nd

1st

23rd

22nd

21st

20th

19th

18th

17th

16th

15th

14th

Wigan rely on Farrell's versatility

WIGAN ARE not in the habit of doing St Helens many favours, but the way they dispatched the only other unbeaten side in Super League has left Saints alone at the top of the table.

Despite fielding a team which looked patched up and improvised in several departments - something they might have to do more of after picking up another couple of injuries yesterday - Wigan were in control virtually throughout, with players at opposite ends of the spectrum of experience doing all that was required of them.

Andy Farrell, playing at stand-off for the first time in a year, pinned Warrington back with his shrewd kicking as well as going 40 yards for a try that a specialist in the position would have been proud of.

Wes Davies, the grandson of Billy Boston, making his first full appearance at full-back, also performed capably, his fast footwork and beautifully balanced running showing up well throughout.

With Mark Reber looking much happier in his favoured position of hooker, the absence of other key players was shrugged off without a care. The way that Warrington missed their absences, Jon Roper and Scott Wilson, more than Wigan did theirs could be an indication that they do not yet have the squad for a convincing tilt at the top five.

They hardly helped

RUGBY LEAGUE

By DAVE HADFIELD

Wigan Warriors 24
Warrington Wolves 10

themselves yesterday by conceding a sloppy early try, allowing Reber to dart over from dummy-half for his first for the club since Simon Haughton had been stopped near the line.

Farrell landed the conversion, but his tactical picking in general play was a bigger factor; his unerring placement between the full-back and wing forcing Warrington to turn and retrieve all afternoon.

The visitors were caught out again after 25 minutes, Neil Cowie this time sucking in the tacklers and playing the ball quickly for Gary Connolly to quicken his way over.

The real killer for Warrington was the try Farrell scored five minutes before the break. Taking the pass from Mick Cassidy, he showed the pace of a genuine stand-off to beat the defence on the outside and his third conversion completed a thoroughly composed and methodical 40-minutes work.

To their credit, Warrington came back strongly after the break, Lee Briers kicking to the corner for Alan Hunt to grab one try. When Briers ran the ball on the last tackle and John Duffy's pass left Jason Roach score on the opposite wing.

Davies, Johnson, Connolly, Moore, Farrell, Robinson, Cowie, Reber, Mestrow, Cassidy, Haughton, Betts. Substitutes used: Goldspink, Smith, Ball, Goss. Sin bin: Cowie. Yellow cards: Warrington: Penny, Roach, Koh-Love, Hunt, Forster; Duffy, Briers, Hilton, Farar, Nutley, Gillies, Knott, Womwright, McCurn, Busby, Hanger. Referee: S Presley (Castlefied).

Briers's conversion brought them to within eight points.

Farrell's penalty restored some stability, but, if Danny Farrar had not wasted a good position by over-hitting a short kick, there was still a faint possibility that Warrington could get something out of the game.

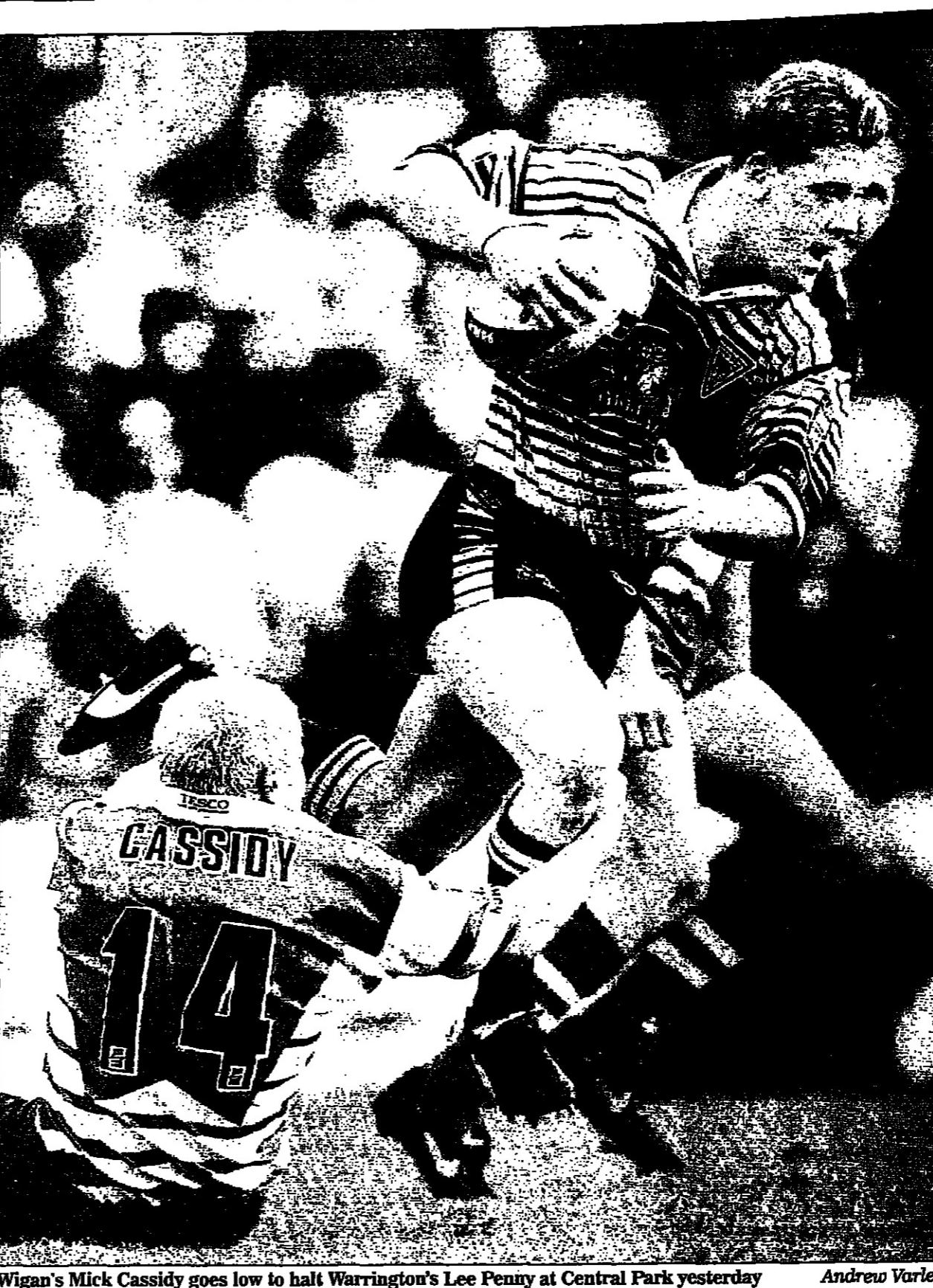
But Wigan always looked to have something in reserve and, 15 minutes from time, they kept the ball alive as they probed for an opening until Lee Gilmour finally sent Danny Moore over for that points that clinched the victory.

In the time that remained, Wigan lost Paul Johnson with an ankle injury and Haughton with a damaged shoulder; both of which are likely to keep them out for extended periods.

"I've never known as many injuries at this stage of a season," said the Wigan coach, John Monie, who was forced to play the last 10 minutes with 12 men.

At least he has the consolation that in Farrell he has a player with the priceless adaptability to compensate and, Davies and the other young hopefuls who will now get their chance, some exciting back-up for the men who will be missing.

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Wigan's Mick Cassidy goes low to half Warrington's Lee Penny at Central Park yesterday Andrew Varley

Eagles swoop late to deny Leeds victory

THE COMEBACK kings, Sheffield Eagles, were at it again yesterday, hitting back to snatch a 22-16 home win which condemned Leeds to their fifth defeat in five Super League matches. The battling Eagles, who gained a last-minute 23-21 win over Hull in their previous game, grabbed two tries in the last 11 minutes to take the lead for the first time and make amends for last season's 24-23 defeat.

Andy Gregory's grip on the Salford coaching post was loosened even further as Castleford came from 11-0 behind to leave

BY DAVE HADFIELD

the Reds still searching for their first win of the season. Michael Eagar's ninth try in five games started the Castleford fight-back and they always looked in control as they cemented their position in the play-off places with the 29-17 away win.

It means Salford have lost

League matches in a row,

having been beaten in their final four games of last year.

Bobbie Goulding gave the long-suffering Huddersfield fans something to shout about

as he inspired the Giants to a 26-12 success over struggling Hull. Goulding was outstanding as he almost single-handedly ended the Giants' 17-game Super League losing streak.

The leaders Hull Kingston Rovers kept up the pace at the top of the Northern Ford Premiership with a seven-try demolition of Whitehaven. The 44-18 win was the perfect tonic for Rovers who returned to winning ways after suffering their first defeat of the season at Dewsbury six days ago.

But there will be concern

about their former Great Britain forward Andy Dannatt, who was carried off with a neck injury after 17 minutes.

Second-placed Dewsbury narrowly completed their sixth successive victory but Bunslet led until six minutes from the end of a rugged Yorkshire derby. The centre Brendan Williams was Dewsbury's hero, scoring two tries and carving out another for the winger Adrián Flynn. It was Williams who supported a fine break by stand-off Richard Agar and barged over the line to nudge

Dewsbury in front for the first time, and the Rams held on for a 21-20 victory.

Keighley Cougars 24-22 in another exciting encounter. Christian Tyre was the star for Keighley playing against his old club, setting up three tries with clever kicks and scoring one himself.

Workington Town's unbeaten home run of four games came to an end but not before they had fully tested a lively Featherstone side. The Cumbrians trailed 12-0 at half-time but fought their way back to

12-10 midway through the second half. It took a late penalty by prop forward Stuart Dickens and a drop goal from the same player to ease Featherstone into a 21-10 win.

Leigh recorded eight tries as they triumphed 44-24 at Lancashire Lynx. Paul Wingfield and Anthony Murray both crossed twice for the visitors, Wingfield also kicking six goals to finish with 20 points.

Bramley full-back Anthony Gibbons produced a match-winning performance to give his side a 24-18 victory over

Oldham. He grabbed two tries and a conversion and then with the sides locked at 18-18 on the hour he kicked a crucial penalty to seal victory for the hosts when he forced his way over the line from close range.

York stand-off Mark Cain grabbed two tries and Andy Precious kicked three goals to beat Doncaster 28-18.

Player-coach Deryck Fox inspired the Rochdale Hornets to a 19-14 victory at Batley which lifted them off the bottom of the table above Doncaster.

ANTHONY HAMILTON built himself a slender lead ahead of the last session of the British Open final against Fergal O'Brien in Plymouth last night. The Nottingham professional built a deserved advantage as he started and ended the opening session of the day on a high note to lead his Irish stablemate 4-3 with a possible 10 frames to play.

Hamilton, who knocked out the Yorkshireman Jimmy Michie in the opening semi-final on Saturday, was quickly into

his stride in a game delayed by 30 minutes because of television commitments involving Sky's coverage of the FA Cup semi-final between Manchester United and Arsenal at Villa Park.

The delay meant that many of the crowd had been waiting for nearly an hour at the Plymouth Pavilions before the first ball was struck.

However, the first frame proved to be worth the wait as Hamilton, the world No 11.

went on to win a 40 minute

frame on the pink. He then added a run of 110 to take the lead. He surpassed that in frame two, however, with a 134 total clearance, leaving O'Brien without a point to his name. The unbroken sequence reached 296 points before O'Brien troubled the scores for the first time. A brief flicker of a smile crossed his face as the crowd applauded the moment.

O'Brien, who beat the world

No 1 and world champion, John Higgins, 6-5 in the semi-final

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Hamilton steals a slender lead

SNOOKER

By DAVE HADFIELD

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That left Hamilton, a quarter-final victor over Stephen Hendry, requiring five of the remaining frames to pocket the £60,000 first prize.

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The Nottingham professional built a deserved advantage as he started and ended the opening session of the day on a high note to lead his Irish stablemate 4-3 with a possible 10 frames to play.

Hamilton, who knocked out the Yorkshireman Jimmy Michie in the opening semi-final on Saturday, was quickly into

England let victory slip

ICE HOCKEY

By DAVE HADFIELD

Daniel Kreutzer scored with a soft goal past Stevie Lyle, who had previously been outstanding in his first two matches.

The Germans were relegated from Pool A last year, but started their campaign in the lower division as the favourites, and with a 100 per cent record.

That left Hamilton, a quarter-final victor over Stephen Hendry, requiring five of the remaining frames to pocket the £60,000 first prize.

It was a tight contest, with

Oldham. He grabbed two tries and a conversion and then with the sides locked at 18-18 on the hour he kicked a crucial penalty to seal victory for the hosts when he forced his way over the line from close range.

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GREAT BRITAIN blew their chance of taking over the outright lead of Pool B in the World Championships in Denmark yesterday following a 3-2 defeat by Germany.

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SPORT

Hamed survives the pain

BOXING

BY GLYN LEACHE

IF NASEEM HAMED is not in decline as a fighter, then the 25-year-old World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion is certainly in a slump. Worse still, his career is threatened by a hand injury that has hampered his performance for the second fight in succession.

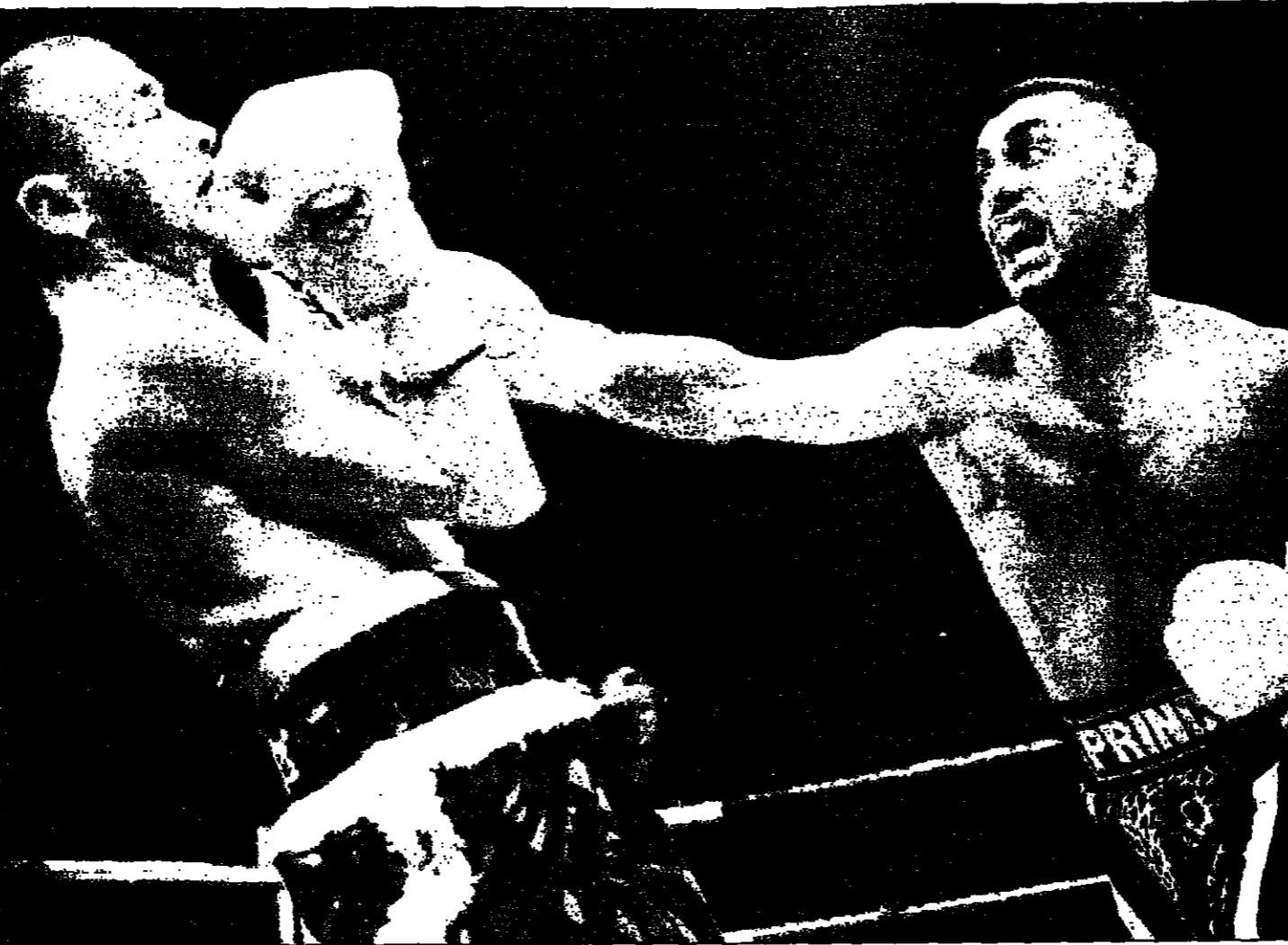
Last Halloween in Atlantic City, 'Prince' Hamed was able to coast through 12 dull but safe rounds against Wayne McCullough after hurting his left hand – traditionally the power purveyor of a southpaw – early in the fight. In Manchester last weekend, the injury showed itself to be a serious long-term threat.

Hamed seemed in control in the early stages of his defence against Scarborough's Paul Ingle at the MEN Arena in Manchester on Saturday. Ingle, an unbeaten European and Commonwealth champion, was floored in the first and sixth rounds. But then, says Hamed, his hand began hurting and his effectiveness was reduced to the point where Ingle took control and Hamed, with no meaningful deterrent to ward off his hyperactive challenger, had to save himself with a knock-out punch – delivered by the ailing hand – in the 11th round.

"Around the sixth my left hand really began to hurt," said the champion. "I just wanted to throw it, but I couldn't. This is doing my head in. I've got to get it sorted out."

Hand injuries are the bane of big punchers and Hamed proved, if nothing else, that he still belongs to that category. He was his 29th stoppage win in 32 unbeaten fights. But it is impossible to ignore the flaws that have developed in this prodigiously talented Yorkshireman who has promised, verbally and in reality, to deliver so much. Without wishing to denigrate the challenger, future boxing legends should not have life and death struggles with the likes of Ingle.

But the aura of Hamed the all-conquering destroyer is nearly gone. Ingle baited him at the end of 11 rounds, goading the goader. And his psychological warfare had begun earlier in the evening, when Ingle va-



Naseem Hamed leads with the right on the way to retaining his world title against Paul Ingle in Manchester on Saturday. Allsport

cated the ring, as he had promised he would if Hamed's entrance lasted longer than six minutes. Which, of course, it did. Cadillac firework display and all, with a bit of rappin thrown in for good measure. It was Hamed whose head was toyed with on this occasion.

Hamed's state of mind has been a concern for some time. His estranged trainer Brendan Ingle, no relation to Paul, has claimed that the featherweight (championship limit nine stone) blows up to around 11 stone between fights, indicating a lack of dedication. Ingle and Hamed have conducted a war of words

through the media, but one can be sure that such criticisms from the man who taught him to box as a child will hurt Hamed.

To his credit, the champion has trained hard for his last two contests and has made the weight with ease. Perhaps too much so, however. There is a distinct possibility that Hamed has overtrained, resulting in two of the least satisfying performances of his career.

His American paymasters, the Home Box Office subscription TV network, claim they are unimpressed by the poor performances, however. "Whatever you say about him,

he's still the biggest one-punch hitter in the sport, and that makes for exciting television," said the HBO executive Lou DiBella.

Unwittingly, Oscar Suarez, the little-known Puerto Rican who has replaced Brendan Ingle, may have added to the demise.

Suarez apparently is a believer in a harsh fitness regime which may be too much for Hamed to take after years without so much as a training run. Suarez at least improved the Prince's shocking sense of balance, but it would be unrealistic to judge him on the evidence of one fight.

Examining Hamed's career how-

ever, it is difficult not to believe that he is steadily, perhaps irretrievably, going downhill, which is where the fortysomething Detroit legend Thomas 'Hill Man' Hearns has been for some time. Hearns is the only fighter to win world titles in six weight categories and he added another belt on the show's undercard. But his 12-rounder with the unambitious American Nate Miller both left him dissatisfied and all but emptied the arena. He now knows that his dream of a shot at the light-heavyweight champion Roy Jones and then retirement is highly unrealistic.

ACTION REPLAY

Mansell on rampage denied by a whisker

SUNDAY
13
APRIL
1986

BY STUART SYKES

Marlboro McLarens of Prost and Keke Rosberg, with the Benettons of Teo Fabi and Gerhard Berger rounding off the top six.

Marlin Brundle, pulling out a fine drive in the spare Data General Tyrrell after emerging unscathed from a high-speed practice crash in his new car, looked good before engine failure forced him out 31 laps from home.

Johnny Dumfries in the second Lotus, carried on the fight, reaching fifth place before coming to grief with a broken drive shaft, but Jonathan Palmer lasted only two corners before going off.

The win put Senna well ahead in the 1986 world championship with 15 points from two races. His Brazilian rival, Nelson Piquet, who had engine failure here in the other Williams, when third after 39 laps, is second with nine points.

Senna started from pole position and led until Mansell caught him on lap 40. But then the Briton was forced into the pit-stop.

Third and fourth were the



Nigel Mansell hounds Ayrton Senna to the finish at Jerez

THE INDEPENDENT Champagne Breaks

The Independent/Independent on Sunday have joined forces with SeaFrance European Life to offer you excellent discounts on holidays to Champagne. From just £49 per person you can take a break in the heart of the Champagne region, inclusive of return ferry crossing, two nights' accommodation and a complimentary bottle of champagne on your arrival.

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Simply call SeaFrance European Life on 0870 242 4455, quoting The Independent Champagne Offer. To qualify for your offer you must collect four of the ten tokens that will be printed in *The Independent* and *The Independent on Sunday* from Friday 9 April to Sunday 18 April (inclusive). At least one of the tokens must be from *The Independent on Sunday*. Then, to validate your offer after booking, send your tokens with the completed application form to The Independent Champagne Offer, SeaFrance European Life, 10 Kerry Street, Leeds, LS18 4AW. Please note that all bookings must be made between 10 April and 30 April 1999 (inclusive).

**PARTICIPATING HOTELS****Epernay,
Le Thibault IV
★★**

Situated 20km south of Epernay on the Champagne Route in the heart of the Champagne region, Le Thibault offers a good standard of accommodation, with reasonably sized rooms and en suite bathrooms. The hotel's restaurant is well known across the Champagne area, serving both gastronomic menus and champagne dinners. The hotel can arrange a free visit to local wine-cellars and, although this does not include wine-tasting, we're sure that it will be an insight into the Champagne world!

**Epernay,
Hostellerie de la
Reine Blanche
★★★**

The village of Vertus lies 20km south of Epernay on the Champagne Route in the heart of the Champagne region. The charm and warmth offered by the Hostellerie de la Reine Blanche is quite typical of the hotels in this region. The hotel has a swimming pool, sauna and fitness room and the bedrooms are large and sumptuously decorated, with en suite bathrooms. The Hostellerie also boasts wine-cellars holding vintages dating back to 1929 to accompany its restaurant's fine gastronomic cuisine.

**Troyes,
Forêt d'Orient
★★★**

Beautiful natural setting, in the heart of the Champagne region, between two lakes for water sports and an 18-hole golf course, 15km from medieval Troyes and 100km from the Epernay champagne cellars. Relax around the heated pool, enjoy a round of golf or archery (both playable locally), or exercise in the free fitness room. The generous-sized rooms offer satellite TV, telephone and lovely bathrooms with separate w.c. The restaurant has a poolside terrace offering good-value menus. Family rooms available.

**Reims, L'Assiette
Champenoise
★★★**

Located just 2km from the centre of Reims, with its magnificent Gothic cathedral and famous champagne cellars. Set in large grounds, this exquisite hotel offers excellent facilities and a high level of comfort in relaxing surroundings. In addition to the heated indoor swimming pool, guests have free use of the sauna. A gastronomic experience at the popular restaurant is certainly not to be missed. All bedrooms have satellite TV and mini-bar. Buffet breakfast and private outdoor parking.

The Independent Champagne Offer 0870 242 4455

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	2 nts	Ex nt						
Epernay Le Thibault IV	49	27	59	28	69	29	55	28
Troyes Forêt d'Orient	69	28	79	29	89	31	79	29
Epernay La Reine Blanche	79	37	89	38	99	40	89	38
Reims Assiette Champenoise	89	38	99	42	109	44	99	42

BASED ON 2 IN A CAR - OCCUPYING 1 ROOM

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	2 nts	Ex nt						
Epernay Le Thibault IV	59	27	69	28	79	29	69	28
Troyes Forêt d'Orient	79	28	89	29	99	31	89	29
Epernay La Reine Blanche	89	37	99	38	109	40	99	38
Reims Assiette Champenoise	99	38	109	42	119	44	109	42

All prices shown are per person and in pounds sterling

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THE INDEPENDENT

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MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY

I'm a writer, not a fighter

Vikram Seth protests that the idea of a feud with Salman Rushdie is ridiculous. But after the superlatives which greeted his doorstopper-blockbuster, *A Suitable Boy*, many are eager to make his new novel another headline-grabbing sensation

I'm on the top of the 94 London bus with Vikram Seth, author of *A Suitable Boy*, reliving whole sections of his new novel *An Equal Music*, an elegant tale of string quartets, Rochdale and lost love. He's pointing out places and things as we coast the northern border of Hyde Park. "There's the statue of the bear; can you see it?" he says excitedly, gesturing at the drinking fountain near the water gardens of the park. I find myself nodding but I'm a little concerned. A key section of the narrative takes place on this very bus route. When we reach Selfridges, how will he respond? Will he glimpse his soulmate, as the main character does, whizzing past on the 94 going in the other direction?

Surprising – I suppose – to find an author usually pigeonholed as "exotic" writing a novel partly set in Rochdale; you suspect a certain bloody-mindedness on his part, a desire to confound expectations, especially noticeable now that he's going up against Salman Rushdie's latest in a battle of the subcontinental titans?

But let's go back a bit, to 1998, when Vikram Seth woke one morning to find himself famous. Before *A Suitable Boy* he'd been little more than an impetuous poet with two economics degrees from Oxford and Stamford in his knapsack. A perennial student, he'd spent two years in deepest China researching "the economic demography of seven villages" before returning to Stamford to chuck in the PhD he was writing. He'd then eccentrically written a verse novel about San Francisco, *The Golden Gate*, which had a genuine cult following, but otherwise notched up pretty indifferent sales.

The follow-up was that true rarity: a literary best-seller. *A Suitable Boy* became a phenomenon, a word-of-mouth hit, from the moment its vast, 1,349-page bulk slumped onto to creaking bookshop-tables. Many critics derided its simple, old-fashioned family drama, but its omission from the Booker shortlist drew some of the most vituperative exchanges in the prize's history. The public loved it to death, this doorstopper epic of post-colonial Indian provincial life without parallel in modern times. People were overwhelmed by its size, if nothing else – it's the longest novel ever published. It's gone on to sell three-quarters of a million copies.

Six years on and he has a new novel in the shops, a slim chamber-work in comparison to the complex orchestrations of *A Suitable Boy*. It's basically a first-person narrative about a Baywater violin-player, Michael Holmes, who is having an early mid-life crisis, precipitated by a girlfriend whom he abandoned in the past and who has mysteriously reappeared.

Seth hadn't been bothered by the fact that Salman Rushdie has a "rival" novel out the same week until journalists kept needling him about it. Now he's fretting over comparisons. Not since the glory days of the Blur/Oasis stand-off have there been such facings-down, such voracious camps, such lines in the sand. U2's Bono, always oddly vulnerable to the schmoozing of authors, has ensured that the rock'n'roll dimension has legs by setting a song lyric from Rushdie's novel for the latest U2 album. While Rushdie goes "Achtung Baby!" and gets jiggly Hollywood-style, Vikram Seth by contrast maintains a shocked and dignified silence.

"One article says we're both polite about each other, and that's a dead giveaway," says Seth.

Now we're in a hotel room, just before that 94 bus ride. He's positioned himself on an armchair with his legs tucked up beneath him, after casting about for additional cushions with the distracted, raised-chin air of an Ottoman pasha. "It's ridiculous," he continues, genuinely pained

He tends to work in bed on a lap-top "with the duvet, a plain colour so as not to distract me," he observes with further, pasha-like particularity. Writing *A Suitable Boy* in longhand resulted in his hand seizing up in a claw shape. He panicked and doctors were called; he now uses a keyboard rather than a fountain pen. Perhaps his claw was also exacerbated by his alarming habit of tearing books to pieces so that he can read them or the movie; Shakespeare is shredded so he can read the Bard "like a newspaper".

I can't help noticing that he has something scrawled on the palm of his hand, and I ask what it is. It's not Madonna Hindi thing, is it? Those Sanskrit signs Madge has taken to drawing on her hands? Are we back on Salman Rushdie again? Seth peers owlishly at his smudged palm. "No, no," he announces at last. "Verdi, I think, but why Verdi? Oh, it's Vicks, because I have a blocked nose".

Verdi is no doubt too florid for his musical tastes, which tend towards the simple expression of deep emotion. He once trained to play the Indian flute, but "I'm not even a medium-level amateur," he tells me. While trying to "distract" himself from writing, he learnt to sing Schubert lieder, but does not think to let me hear his voice until, by complete chance, I mention the vivacious 1963 musical *Les Parapluies de Cherbourg*. Jacques Demy's light-as-a-feather

scene where the two lovers, many years on, meet briefly and by accident. It's a bit like the one in his new novel.

Another exertion he's fond of, and which pops up in the novel, is swimming in the Serpentine. In the winter. Hang on, isn't that a bit cold? "Yes, I'm part of the club allowed to swim there." They have to sign health waivers with the local council before dipping a toe in those goose-turded waters. "I tend to go on a Saturday and we do handicap races and swim around the buoy," he tells me. He pronounces buoy "booo-wee", like an American. Why does he do that? He flushes a little. "After *Suitable Boy*, it's difficult to say the word," he says, a little mysteriously.

He's used to the fame now, but even with the money ("I made a pot of money"), years of penny-pinching has left its mark. He finds it difficult to encompass the extravagances of – say – taking a taxi anywhere. And so this is how it is when the interview is over, and we end up on the 94 bus together on the top deck, and a magical mystery tour of *An Equal Music* begins. We glimpse the Round Pond between the trees, the bear fountain, and we are nearly at the doors of Selfridges and the "laps-robed statue" that looks down as our hero, Michael, sees a fugitive face, a great lost love from 10 years earlier in another 94 bus.

But we pass the angel of Selfridges in silence, and at length Seth gets off the bus at Bond Street.

"What is your favourite Tintin book?" he has been barding me. "When I was 10 I read *The Secret of the Unicorn*," he confesses. "But it ended before the treasure was found, and I spent all year in a state of tension. Then I read the conclusion of the story in *Red Rackham's Treasure* when I was 11, and I will never forget that feeling, that long, terrible period of unknowing, followed by resolution."

Like all Seth's slightly fey anecdotes, it has an undertow of hardbitten worldliness. Don't be deceived. As I see him dart through the complacent crowds of Oxford Street, I come to the inescapable conclusion that he is no fop, no fool, and no tame exotic either. No mere sprite of the literary world could have managed the sheer heft of *A Suitable Boy*, however many musicals make him cry. And that will still be true long after the Rushdie stand-off has been forgotten, and the fickle rock'n'roll circus has moved on.

Deborah Ross will be back next week

BY ROGER CLARKE

by what he calls "lazy editors" stoking up an imaginary feud. "We're characterised as Tweedie and this Tweedie that, when he's Tweedie and I'm the Monstrous Crow." He says this with a tinkling, musical laugh. "We don't resemble each other at all."

However, there's nothing remotely monstrous about 47-year-old Seth. People always mention how small he is, and what nice brown eyes he has, and the way everything about his manner seems rather refined. You could never imagine him capable of an ugly word; you would feel disgusting even to mention an ugly thing in his presence. It would be the action of a cad and a boor to press him on the question of his private life (not that there's a hint of ugliness there – on the contrary, he lives with his doting parents in Delhi), which anyway he refuses to talk about.



Kosovo children appeal to Independent readers

Thousands of Kosovar refugee children now face death from hunger, cold and disease. Most are in deep shock. Many have witnessed their parents and relatives killed in the awful atrocities from which they fled. Albania, the poorest country in Europe, cannot support this massive influx of refugees.



Your action will save children who have lost everything

The European Children's Trust needs your swift response to expand our emergency centre in northern Albania to help thousands of refugees. Our team has been working with displaced Kosovar families since this tragedy began. We are ready to provide food, medical aid and clothing to the confused and frightened children who arrive daily.

These are children and families whose homes have been lost, perhaps forever.

Special help is needed for the traumatised children who have witnessed terrible crimes, and must now start to live a normal life.

• £30 could buy emergency medicine and food for 5 Kosovar refugee children for a week.

Kosovo Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KER359, 64c Queen Street, London, EC4B 4AR.

Please send what you can to save the displaced Kosovar children. Call 0800 056 3686 now or cut the coupon below

I enclose £30 my choice £_____ to save Kosovar children. (Cheques to The European Children's Trust please). Or debit my Access/Visa/CAF card:

Card no _____ Expiry date _____

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Please return to: Don McCreary, (112), Kosovo Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KER359, 64c Queen Street, London, EC4B 4AR.

Or call 0800 056 3686 NOW.

Please act NOW – your gift will save lives



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4

INDEPENDENT

INSIDE

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Rich man's war

Sir: M Owen (letter, 8 April) suggests that many opponents of Nato's actions against Yugoslavia are of the "anti-American left" who are still "locked into Cold War attitudes". If "the Cold War is over", should not someone tell the Americans? We are witnessing a mopping-up operation in that unfinished war.

How else do we explain the unwillingness of the US to prevent or punish atrocities committed by Turkey against the Kurds and by Indonesia against the East Timorese? How do these states escape the wrath of the US, while Iraq and Yugoslavia suffer devastation? Is it simply coincidence that the states escaping Nato bombardment are those already safely locked into the global free market economy while Iraq and Yugoslavia are unwilling to open their economies to US or IMF priorities?

We are now being psychologically prepared for the aerial destruction of Yugoslavia's infrastructure or a massive ground war, or both. In Iraq the destruction of infrastructure such as water and fuel supplies, and the impact of sanctions, are killing five thousand children each month.

The war is avoidable. The billions of pounds it would cost should be spent on emergency relief, homes, new towns and hospitals for the refugees and impoverished populations of the Balkans. That would reduce the economic pressures which have fuelled the crisis; historic hatred was the excuse for and manifestation of the conflict, not its cause.

But is global capital willing to be the servant of an effort to satisfy such human needs, or must it follow the flag, gunboat and free market ideology which Nato still clearly serves by its selective exercise of power?

TREVOR PHILLIPS
Norwich

Sir: In March, after months of negotiations and a whole series of "last chances", in the light of broken agreements and mounting evidence of Serb atrocities in Kosovo, the democratically elected leaders of 19 NATO countries, together with their military advisers and with all the facts at their disposal, decided belatedly and with obvious reluctance to take military action against Serbia.

These leaders, for all their faults, are not gung-ho tyrants looking for any excuse to attack a small nation, but responsible politicians who preside over countries which are, in the main, models of free speech and respect for human rights. At the time their decision was supported, with reservations, by the majority of their citizens. As more of the facts have emerged about Serbian atrocities in Kosovo, this support has considerably strengthened, despite probing and questioning of Nato's position by the media.

On 9 April you published a letter by Dr Richard Keeble and others claiming that Britain's intervention was utterly irresponsible and that if the people had been told the facts about the war they would never have supported it. Dr Keeble is, of course, entitled both to hold these opinions and to have them published in a national newspaper; something he would find rather more difficult in Serbia. His arrogance, however, in claiming to have greater insight than all 19 Nato governments and suggesting that his fellow citizens don't have the same ability as he has to make up their own minds is breathtaking.

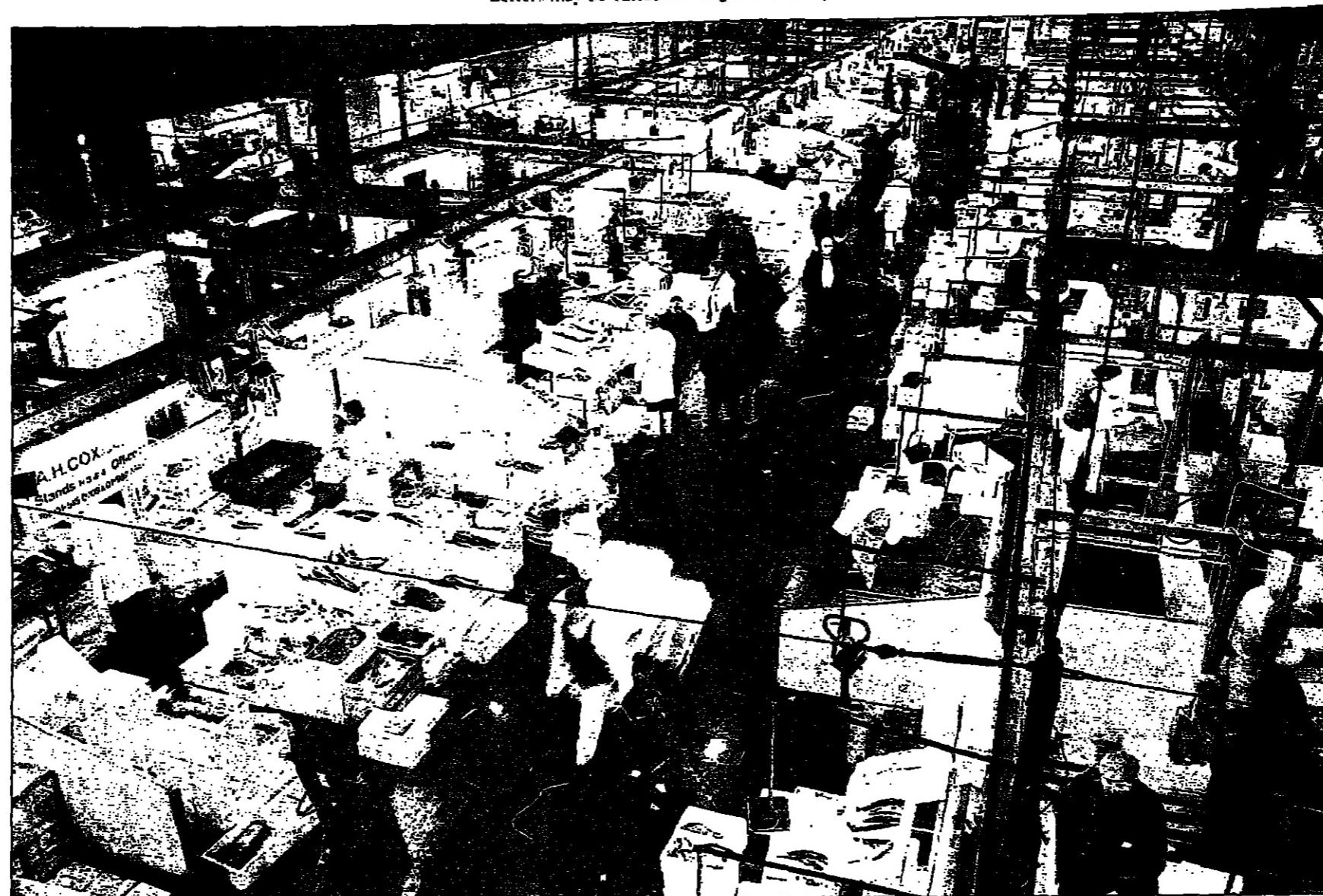
Like Richard Keeble, the majority of the citizens of the West have made up their own minds. Fortunately for the Kosovans, they have come to a different conclusion.

STUART RUSSEL
Cirencester, Gloucestershire

Sir: Sometimes I can hardly believe what I am hearing: the most sophisticated technology in the world but somehow it can't work if there are a few clouds or ground mist - sounds like leaves on the track or the wrong kind of snow!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Billingsgate No 1: By Sam London's fish market is in full swing. It moved to Docklands from its ancient location in the City in the 1980s Kalpesh Lathigra

Now we are told that Kosovo is inaccessible to troops because there are no proper roads - presumably modern tanks only work on motorways.

Our forefathers would be ashamed of us: Omdurman was a remote inaccessible place, as were Sebastopol and Missolonghi, but they got there and were not afraid to put their lives on the line for a cause (which is actually what armies are for).

DOMINIC KIRKHAM
Manchester

Sir: Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, staring hard at camera, warned the country on Saturday that a ground offensive against Yugoslavia would require months of preparation (a curious description of the Rapid Reaction Force for which we have paid our taxes) and would result in heavy casualties on both sides. He clearly expects this to still the clamour for such an offensive.

Our government's past and present (Winston Churchill excepted) seem to have a predilection for underestimating the toughness of those they rule. During the Second World War the Ministry of Information was on tenterhooks lest the nerve of the people crack under heavy Nazi aerial bombardment. Subsequent inquiry has shown that the only sound of knees knocking together came from within the ministry itself.

DR LESLIE PALMIER
Bath

Sir: The problem with discussing the legality of Nato's campaign against Serbia is that Nato wants to be both arbiter and enforcer.

This is a problem that Nato shares with the UN. Since only powerful countries have the resources to act as enforcers and some of these countries have UN veto, international law is controlled by the whim of a few countries. International law is really a new form of colonial imperialism.

PAUL EDWARDS
London EC1

Adoption obstacles

Sir: In your article "Councils named in adoption crisis" (7 April) you suggest that low rates of adoption are due to social workers and local authorities having an "anti-adoption" culture.

However, many children are only "looked after" for a short period before returning to their families. Forty-three percent of children leaving care have been looked after for less than eight weeks.

Many children are already in suitable placements such as in permanent foster homes, specialist schools, supported lodgings or with their parents or other relatives and adoption is therefore not necessary.

Most children in care (80 per cent) are over the age of five. Many of these will have significant personal difficulties such as emotional and behavioural problems. Some will have links with, and loyalties towards, birth relatives that mean they would not want to be adopted. All figures from the Department of Health Statistical Bulletin, 1998.

There is of course a group of children (a small proportion of the 51,000 who are in long-stay care) do not have a permanent placement and have no prospect of return home. Probably the most important influence on why such children are not being adopted is that there is a great mismatch

between the needs of these children (many of whom are difficult to parent) and the kind of children that most adopters seek to parent: very young children without problems. Finding and supporting new parents is possible but requires time, money and specialist skills.

PROFESSOR JUNE THOBURN
BETH NEIL
Centre for Research on the Child
and Family
University of East Anglia
Norwich

Sir: The low use of adoption by some local authorities for children in care is, of course, a cause for concern. The British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering welcomed the Quality Protection initiative, launched last September, which will make new money available to local authorities. This money is allocated against local targets which are to include increases in the number of children being adopted. It is, therefore, surely premature for Julian Brazier to ask the Government to "punish" local authorities for past performance when the new thrust to increase adoption which has been welcomed by social workers, has only just begun.

It has never been the case that large numbers of children in care have been adopted by new families. The 21,000 children per year adopted in the 1970s

consisted almost entirely of adoptions of children by their step-parents (at least half the total) and infants relinquished for adoption by single birth mothers. Both these forms of adoption have dropped drastically for reasons relating to different custody arrangements for step-parents and societal changes in attitude to single mothers.

FELICITY COLLIER
Director
British Agencies for Adoption and
Fostering
London SE1

Sir: Your article, "Councils named in adoption crisis" listed 10 councils said to be the "worst authorities" in terms of children placed for adoption in 1997. I write as the independent chair of the adoption panel in the second worst authority, the London Borough of Hackney.

I know that the quoted figure of three adoptions is wholly inaccurate. In fact, Hackney averages about 50 children per year placed in permanent family placements, split almost equally between long-term fostering and adoption.

I am therefore cautious in accepting the figures quoted for the other nine authorities and even more so in believing that the "anti-adoption" culture that you assert is widespread is even existent among social workers. It would be

interesting to know something of the research methodology employed by the House of Commons officials, if their work could be dignified by that term.

Panaceas can seem superficially attractive but are in fact fatally flawed responses to complex situations, and adoption is no panacea. Yet for a minority of those children who are unable to live with their birth families it can be a wonderfully positive opportunity to rebuild a young life previously shattered by neglect or abuse.

HELEN MARTYN
London NW5

Banana battle

Sir: You are wrong to suggest that the European Union should admit defeat in the banana war (leading article, 8 April).

This is certainly not the first time in recent history that "free trade" rules have been used to undermine broadly beneficial activities in favour of the financial interests of large companies.

In 1998 the US government was obliged, under North American free trade rules, to reverse a ban on a toxic petro additive and two Mexican local authorities were sued for preventing US companies from establishing toxic-waste dumps in their jurisdictions.

Nor, if we give up on the small Caribbean banana farmers, will it be the last time that trade rules are used in this way. One GM company admits to a target which will make the whole of the US soy crop genetically engineered for 2000.

We have a right to halt imports which threaten our health, environment and economy. If the World Trade rules do not allow this then they must be changed. The only argument against this is that biotech companies might suffer.

Which is more important - their profits or our future?

MARTIN HUGHES-JONES
Green Party Agriculture Working Group

Tiverton, Devon

'Good' teachers' pay

Sir: Your leader "Good teachers deserve to be paid more" (5 April) would be wrong in thinking that teachers are against performance-related pay on doctrinaire grounds. Most teachers believe good work should be rewarded.

The almost universal opposition to performance-related pay among teachers stems from the knowledge that even a moderately fair system will be impossible to devise.

How is it possible to compare a teacher who routinely works wonders with severely handicapped children against a teacher whose pupils regularly shine at A-level? How can we weigh the work of a teacher who has to exist in a derelict and overcrowded classroom with another teacher who enjoys good facilities?

W.D. McKAIGUE
Wirral, Merseyside

Sir: It is a scandal how often schools avoid appointing teachers who are well qualified and experienced, but have reached the top of the pay scale, because it saves thousands of pounds if a probationer is taken on instead.

Similar cash limits will be placed on the number of teachers awarded extra money for the quality of their teaching - therefore all those who deserve the money will not get it, because heads will make sure that the money does not come out of their current account expenditure.

Teachers will cease to share expertise, arguing that it is foolish to aid someone else to achieve a higher salary at the expense of their own chances.

JOHN SCHOLFIELD
Market Deeping, Lincolnshire

Juries and race

Sir: The Government's commitment to an anti-racist criminal justice system has hardly lasted more than a few weeks. No sooner has the ink dried on the official response to the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, than the Home Office has restarted its whispering campaign to limit the right of defendants to elect jury trial (report, 3 April).

Such a move would severely undermine the efforts of black defendants to fight one form of institutional racism in the police. This is the tendency - well documented in Home Office and other research - for black people to be "over-charged", only to have the charges against them later reduced or dropped when they plead not guilty and elect for jury trial. It is just this type of change that lies behind the decision of many defendants, having elected jury trial, to change their plea to guilty.

To seek to limit the right to jury trial will only serve to reinforce the police in their racist charging practices and leave many black defendants vulnerable to unfair convictions before magistrates.

PROFESSOR LEE BRIDGES
Director, Legal Research Institute
The University of Warwick

Blonde bombshell

Sir: So people make snap judgements about women's intelligence based on their hair colour, do they ("Dumb blonde image is alive and well", 10 April)?

This emerges from getting 120 people to rate a model for intelligence, among other attributes, from pictures in which she wears different coloured wigs. But the only people who could honestly participate in such an exercise are those who believe that appearance has something to do with intelligence. Anyone who didn't believe that would either refuse to take part or would make up their answers to please (or fool) the questioner. So the research tells us that of those who believe that appearance is linked to intelligence a significant proportion believe that appearance is linked to intelligence. Gosh.

Nor, if we give up on the small Caribbean banana farmers, will it be the last time that trade rules are used in this way. One GM company admits to a target which will make the whole of the US soy crop genetically engineered for 2000.

We have a right to halt imports which threaten our health, environment and economy. If the World Trade rules do not allow this then they must be changed. The only argument against this is that biotech companies might suffer.

Which is more important - their profits or our future?

MARTIN HUGHES-JONES
Green Party Agriculture Working Group

Tiverton, Devon

The greatest sport ever has been overlooked... till now

IN THE 1930s Aldous Huxley broadcast a talk on BBC radio entitled *Why Wars Happen*. He was telling the world, shortly before the start of the Second World War, why wars happen, and nobody seems to have been listening. I didn't hear it at the time. In fact, I didn't hear it till many years later, when I was working on a BBC programme which took material from the BBC archives and I came across the talk, so I dug it out and became, for all I know, the only person who has listened to it in the last 60 years.

His explanation of why wars happen was simplicity itself. They happen because people get bored. He said this was demonstrable because of the suicide rate. The suicide rate always goes down, he said, during a war, because something more important is going on than the

petty affairs of the would-be suicide. And besides, if you commit suicide, you never learn who wins the war. He thought this was not as frivolous as it sounds, because during a war, the suicide rate does not merely dip in the warring nations - it goes down in the neighbouring neutral nations who are looking on.

In other words, war is not just a horrible, vile affair, it is also an engaging spectator sport, as absorbing to the unattached watcher as to the home and away crowd.

I have always remembered this radio talk as a quiet piece of scepticism which sounded convincing but which would probably not bear too much examination. Suicide rate going up and down depending on war and peace? Hmmmm. So I was quite startled the other day to spot a headline in *The Spectator*

under Theodore Dalrymple's name: "How this war is reducing suicide in Britain".

Could Dalrymple be putting forward the same theory as Aldous Huxley? He certainly was. Indeed, he said it was more than a theory - it was well-known and generally accepted that wars reduce suicide, and quite observable too. The hospital in which Dalrymple has had far fewer attempted suicides admitted since the Serbian offensive began, and the same had been true at the time of the Gulf War, though he did admit that the attempted suicides started flooding in again at the time of the cessation of hostilities.

Dalrymple thinks that the Serbian War (we're calling it the Serbian War yet?) may actually be a Government plot to diminish

are a few more wars with inoffensive targets to bomb, at little risk to ourselves, to keep pressure on the NHS down. I think he is wrong here. I am sure he is right about the need for war, but I think that what we have always wanted is a few ding-dong minor wars which were not fought by a big side bombing a little side out which were fought between evenly matched forces under well understood rules, with little at stake - in other words, a war with real spectator value.

The Falklands War was the ideal war. It was fought on a neutral site which nobody in their right mind really wanted to win. Both sides desperately wanted to win the war, but nobody wanted the prize particularly - as Jose Luis Borges said, it was a case of two bald men fighting over a comb. But it was the kind

of enthralling war that stops depressives reaching for the over dose, and I would be willing to bet that the suicide rate hit rock bottom both here and in Argentina.

The great thing about the Falklands War was that there was virtually no civilian presence and therefore no refugee problem. I am afraid that the way the Serbs are murdering and displacing hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians is making the war a less than satisfactory spectator spectacle - a bit like modern rugby, where it is also hard to tell half the time what is going on.

"There must have been some infringement there," says the commentator, "because someone is getting sent off." "There must have been some kind of massacre there," say the war correspondents.

War International?

The Sky War Channel?

I don't see why not.



MILES KINGTON
War is not just a horrible, vile affair, it is also an engaging spectator sport

What we need now, he theorises,

July 150

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If Turkey is to join the EU it must stop abusing the Kurds

Good' teachers' *In your leader "Good teachers deserve to be paid more". Agree, teachers are against performance-related pay. But teachers believe good work should be rewarded.*

The almost universal opposition to performance-related pay among teachers stems from the knowledge that even a moderately fair system will be impossible to devise.

How is it possible to compare a teacher who routinely works harder with severely handicapped children against a teacher whose pupils regularly flunk A-level? How can we exist in a derelict and overgrown classroom with another teacher who enjoys good facilities?

D. MACINTYRE
Moral Message

It is a scandal how often schools avoid appointing teachers who are well qualified and experienced, but have reached the top of the pay scale, because it saves thousands of pounds if a probationer is taken on instead.

Similar cash limits will be placed on the number of teachers applying for the quality of teaching – therefore all those who deserve the money will not get it because heads will make sure the money does not come out of their current account expenditure.

Teachers will cease to share expertise, arguing that it is foolish to aid someone else to achieve higher salary at the expense of their own chances.

JOHN SCHOLFIELD
Junior Delegating, Lincolnshire

Juries and race *In the Government's coming anti-crime criminal justice system, it hardly lasted more than weeks. No sooner has it died in the official response to the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, than Justice Office has restarted its hasty campaign to limit the right of juries to elect jury verdicts.*

Such a move would severely undermine the rights of black citizens to fight one form of institutional racism in the police force. The tendency – well documented in Home Office and other research – for black people to be encouraged only to have lawyers, who later reduce charges when they plead guilty, has been restored.

Until Mr or Mrs Europe is appointed, however, Mr Cook and his colleagues should be as clear and united as they can. They should repeat their insistence that Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the Kurdish guerrilla movement the PKK, be given a fair trial. They should repeat their condemnation of human rights abuses inflicted on the Kurdish people. And they should make clear that, while they want Turkey to join the EU, not least to secure a large, democratic and modern bridgehead in the Moslem world, its membership is conditional upon these demands being met.

Time to stand in the path of the juggernaut

IT IS instructive to define a government by its enemies: Margaret Thatcher brought the ban-the-bombers and trade unionists on to the streets to protest, and stimulated the poor and disadvantaged to riot. So far the Labour Government has induced the Barbour-clad countryside to march on London, and the lorry-drivers to block Park Lane. Today, the lorries are coming again, aiming to jam the centres of six cities. In London, they are expected to be joined by taxi-drivers and pig-farmers. This unlikely coalition is no more likely than the miners and the disaffected youth of Brixton to bring the Government to its knees.

Some of the reversals of left and right since the Eighties are none the less piquant. To have *The Daily Telegraph* defend unlawful disruption by truckers brings back

memories of left-wing commentators wringing their hands over picket-line violence. *The Telegraph* described the lorry-drivers' action as "desperate" but "understandable", and said expressions of "public tolerance, bordering on goodwill" should be a warning to the Government.

Any fair-minded observer should, however, condemn even-handedly any antisocial attempt by sectional interests to change Government policy in their favour. Especially in this case, when the broader public interest is clear.

Gordon Brown was quite right in his Budget to continue the Conservative policy of annual real increases in petrol and diesel duty. (The notion that diesel was a "greener" fuel because it produces less greenhouse gas has been overthrown by the more direct threat to human health of particulates.) Congestion will do the job of limiting traffic growth – but it is more economically efficient to use prices to achieve the same end. While the sharp shift in road duty to discourage bridge-shaking, building-juddering, five-axle lorries in favour of smoother six-axle ones was overdue.

The truckers' main argument – apart from self-interest – is that the Budget tax increases are self-defeating, because haulage companies will run their juggernauts under "plates of convenience" from Luxembourg or Bulgaria. Norbert Dentressangle, the king of the big beasts of the road, has already announced 30 redundancies as he concentrates resources in the French part of his operation.

This is less of problem than the haulage industry pretends, though, because other corporate taxes are higher on the Continent. But the Government finds it difficult to counter this argument because the right response is to support some degree of tax harmonisation across Europe.

It should be said that the solution is not to get into a low-tax auction, with each country underbidding its neighbours. Britain should not lower its taxes on road transport, but seek to persuade its partners to raise theirs. It is the right way to preserve the environment and encourage rail freight. The Government must stand firm against the extra-parliamentary tactics of the New Scargillites.

Why the right is not beating the patriotic drum for war



DONALD MACINTYRE

The critics of the war would be much more vilified if they were on the left attacking a right-wing government

to come to terms with the fact that there is a new generation of leaders ... who fall from the progressive side of politics but who are prepared to be as firm as any of our predecessors of right or left in seeing this through".

It is legitimate for all the armchair

Controversial Blair's claim may be baseless if surely isn't. It is striking that the most savage British critics, particularly in the press, have tended to be on the right. Including the usually jingoistic *Daily Mail* as well as some who can usually be relied upon, like the *Spectator's* Bruce Anderson, to be loyal to the Tory leadership, more or less whoever it is. Moreover, while William Hague has firmly declared his backing for the Government, his senior spokesmen have not exactly been touring the studios in the past fortnight beating the drum for the British war effort. Nor, necessarily, should they. It's just that the critics of the war, sullen or overt, would be much more vilified if they were on the left attacking a right-wing government.

It is legitimate for all the armchair

infantry generals to insist on a ground

war (Mr Blair repeats in his article

that while this is not a "plan" all

options are continually reviewed,

though they should accept that,

ground troops or not, bombing was

always a necessary preliminary, just

as it was in the Gulf). Moreover,

the Government's honourable critics,

such as Lord Carrington or the war

historian and MP Alan Clark, would

certainly be criticising the Nato action

whether the Government were

Labour or Tory. But in others it is easy

to detect a feeling that it may be

OK for a Labour government now

and then to invent an NHS or do something

about unemployment, they just aren't

up to big, grown-up, military interventions.

Some of this criticism stems from

a wilful failure to accept that

democratic governments of the left,

as well as of the right, are capable of doing what all governments have to do from time to time.

There are several reasons for this hostility. One is that the concept of a just war, despite a pedigree that takes it back to Aquinas, is more difficult to accept on the right, which tends to believe that wars should be either defensive or nakedly self-interested.

Another is a less attractive but stubbornly instinctive belief that ignores Labour's role in the wartime coalition

and persists in believing that Tories

are patriots in a way that Labour politicians just can't be.

Curiously, for all that she was a divisive, tribal figure in office, I doubt that the victor of the Falklands, Lady Thatcher holds this view. In an article in *The Daily Telegraph* last week, her

long-time foreign affairs private secretary Sir Charles Powell drew an interesting contrast between the wide

and firm coalition of support that

backed the government not only in the

Falklands but in the Gulf, and the wide-

spread criticisms now. He said that the

Americans also had over-optimistic

expectations in the Gulf of how swiftly

an air war would dislodge Saddam

Hussein. And he pointed out eloquently that 19 democracies are

now acting in unison in pursuit of the

"fundamentally decent" aim of per-

suading Milosevic to pull out of Kos-

ovo, and that if their will is not "eroded

from inside", they will prevail.

Sir Charles's old boss has not so far

pronounced publicly on the war. If she

were to do so, it might just discomfit

some of her disciples who are now

wringing their hands

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I believe we have reached a point where nobody from anywhere can dare to threaten us."
George Fernandes, Indian Defence Minister, on the test flight of a long-range missile

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The only man who wasn't spoilt by being lionized was Daniel."
Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree
British actor and theatre manager

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

The Sunday newspapers on the DTI's refusal to let BSkyB take over Manchester United

acted according to the book. That he did so knowing he would inevitably disappoint someone whose support helped New Labour to win power makes his decision all the more commendable.

At the time, it was the greatest

is not a decision about business. Had the bidder been anyone other than Mr Murdoch, the deal would almost certainly have been approved. But in order to appease its vociferous chattering-class supporters who regard Mr Murdoch as the Great Demon, New Labour has caved in to a group of campaigners, most of whom think Andy "King" Cole sang "Unforgettable". *Sunday Business*

THE DECISION not to allow the takeover of Manchester United by Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB will doubtless be debated long and hard. But it is difficult to argue with the way it was arrived at. The Government had little choice but to refer the £22m bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. In not venturing to disregard the commission's view that the takeover would be bad for competition, Trade Secretary Stephen Byers has simply

reduced a man with imagination and energy to a role of the greatest importance. It needs perhaps to be urged that his efforts to take over Manchester United and the international Sky TV channel don't see why not

by fund managers who demand a return. This is no bad thing. Football has needed more capital than small investors or hobbyists could provide and the City has made

that available – at a price. *John Jay*
The Sunday Times

THERE IS no business logic to the DTI's decision because it

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to block BSkyB's bid for Manchester United could be the reverse that breaks Rupert Murdoch's will to extend his dominion on to the Continent. The short-term winners in that case may be diehard Manchester United fans. In the longer term, the winners are likely to be the Continental European Media moguls with whom Murdoch must now deal on weakened terms. *Peter Koenig*
The Independent on Sunday

I now
... because half a million men have disappeared and it's not good enough to make a great spectacle and if we start turning out some we like the English and we're for other people's sake fighting and the upholders of democracy and the upholders of the rule of law and the upholders of the principles of the cause. As far as the UK is concerned, it's not really that many years ago that the only people in this area were in averse relationship between the UK and the USA.
EXTRACTION

The post-Monica presidency



MARY DEJEVSKY
Somehow, between then and now, the President has re-established his credibility

Scandal how often void appointing teacher well qualified and paid, but have reached pay scale, because it is taken on instead cash limits will be placed of teachers awarded for the quality of their work all those who money will not get ads will make sure does not come out of account expenditure will cease to share rating that it is failing me else to achieve what the expense of

LEFTFIELD
Ding, Lincolnshire
and race

ment's committee on criminal justice only lasted more than a month before it was disbanded, but its initial response to the inquiry that is restarted its campaign to limit its terms to elect jury

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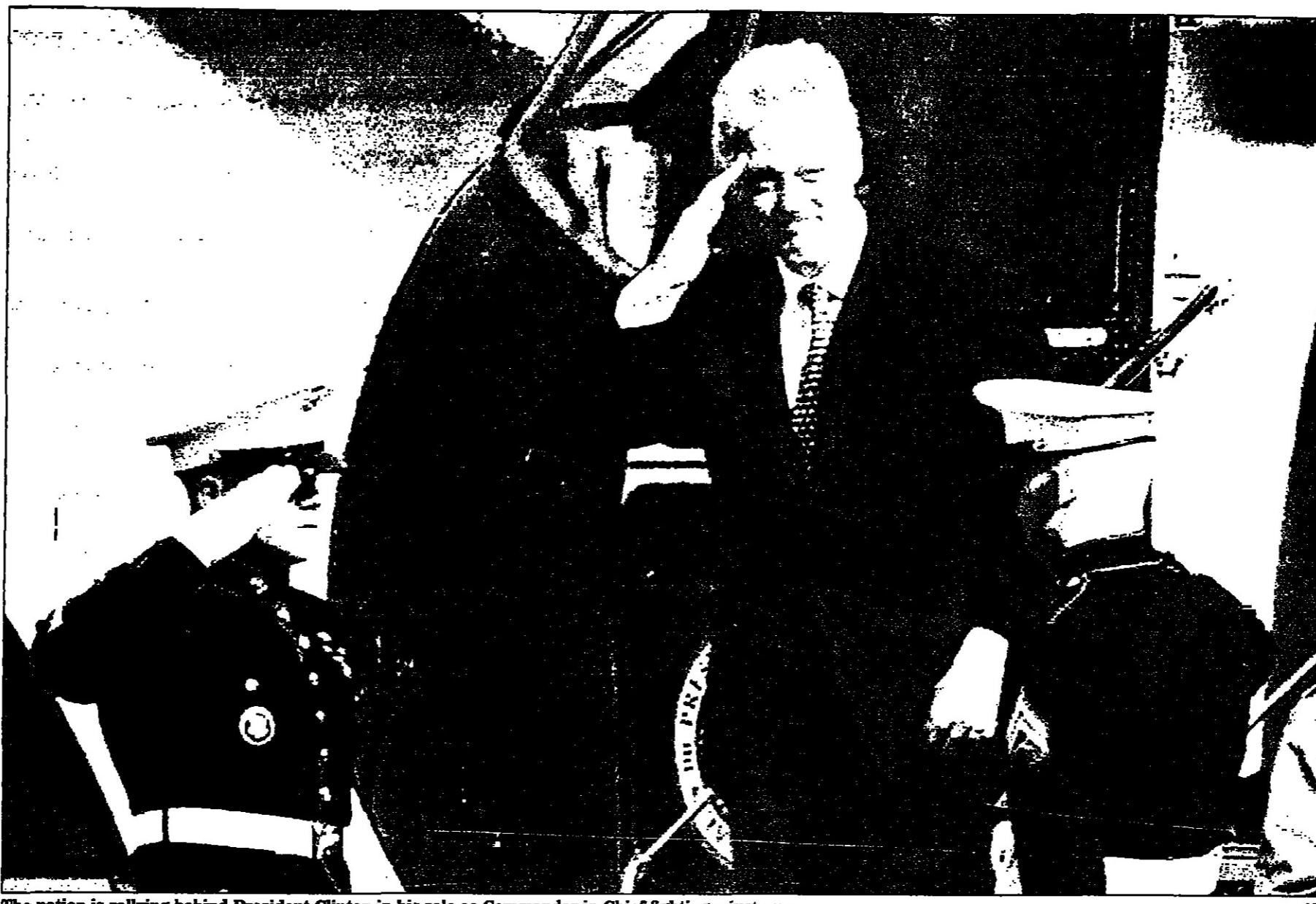
The reception of

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context.



The nation is rallying behind President Clinton in his role as Commander in Chief fighting a just war

ignored what advice about dealing with the Serbs and saving the Kosovars. The President himself has seemed to float above the fray.

He has looked weary, at times preoccupied, but never wavering, at least not in public. The impression being given – which is, of course, carefully cultivated – is that if advice was ignored, whether on the effect of the air strikes or the scale of the exodus, it was for the nobility of reasons.

Both Mr Clinton and his Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, exude the sense that they are trying to replay the history of the Second World War and give it a different ending before the century is out. For Ms Albright one factor may have been the loss of family in Nazi concentration camps and her own flight to the United States.

For Mr Clinton, there may be alongside the moral concern to avert anything resembling a new Holocaust, a desire to rebut accusations that have dogged his presidency, and especially his foreign policy, that his actions abroad have been dictated not by any higher purpose, but by the polls; that he is not the visionary shaper of the world that maybe he had hoped to be, but a mere manager of crises that his neglect helped create, and that he has no policy, only reactions.

Well, somehow, between then and now, the President has re-established his credibility. Or probably, as the polls consistently testified, he never really lost it. The public did, after all, "compartmentalise" his sins. He ordered his troops into battle and they obeyed. The same people who questioned his motives for bombing Sudan and Afghanistan last summer and Iraq in December are now wrapping themselves in the flag. And even as his cabinet fights about who gave or

ing here having you ask me why we are permitting a wholesale ethnic slaughter, and "ethnic cleansing", and the creation of hundreds of thousands of refugees, and not lifting a finger to do anything about it."

Not even the evidence that is before us of an appalling misreading of President Milosevic's intentions and unconscious suffering on the part of Kosovo's Albanians refutes the argument that – at least on this occasion – Mr Clinton's intentions were honourable.

And it is quite possible that Mr Clinton will be able to stick with this argument to the end. In the unlikely event that Nato retreats from its objective of bombing Serbia into loosening its hold on Kosovo, Mr Clinton can say that he did his very best – but (and any one of these would suffice) an insufficient number of Allies/Americans/Congressmen had the stomach needed for the fight, and he is regrettably stepping back.

He can even turn the biggest miscalculation of all to his advantage, arguing that it was the miscalculation of an innocent; he just could not believe so ill of anyone, even Mr Milosevic, that he would drive almost the whole Albanian population of Kosovo from their homes.

More likely, though, such arguments will not be needed. Nato will

– in Mr Clinton's words – "persist and prevail"; at least, it will reach a point where it can claim to have done so. In that case, he will stand vindicated before the doubters in his Administration, in the military, in Congress, and in the Alliance, at least until the bills – and not just the financial ones – start rolling in.

For Mr Clinton personally, the aftermath of the Kosovo conflict could be positive if it helps to restore the missing moral element to his presidency. But it will probably be less kind to others. Those in the Administration who questioned the wisdom of the military operation will appear churlish, almost regardless of the outcome. If the operation is not deemed a success, a particular loser could be Vice-President Al Gore, not because he expressed doubts about the enterprise – on the contrary, he has been responsible for some of the most fierce, and most simplistic, rhetoric about Slobodan Milosevic – but because he will be associated with the failure rather than the moral leadership.

In the longer term, there will be calls for explanations that go beyond the immediate questions of why Milosevic's intentions were so badly

misread and why the extent of the exodus from Kosovo was not anticipated. There will be questions about whether it was wise for the United States to get itself into a position where its money, if not its troops, will be required to help protect the Kosovar Albanians for years if they return home. There will be questions about the damage done to the West's relations with Russia, where resentment of US and Nato action could extend into the next generation and beyond.

So long as he does not lose his nerve and forsake the moral high ground, Mr Clinton could well emerge from what must be one of the sorriest diplomatic and military miscalculations of the past two decades with his personal authority enhanced and his presidential legacy rehabilitated. That there had been warnings of the pitfalls ahead from the Pentagon and intelligence services only makes that positive judgement more, not less, likely. Not Monica, but Kosovo will define his two terms at the White House; not making love, but waging war – and a war that a consensus on both sides of the Atlantic sees, for the time being at least, as just.

RIGHT OF REPLY

JANET LAURENCE



The former head of the Crime Writers' Association replies to a recent article on members' in-fighting

TO CORRECT just a few of Jane Jakeman's wilder inaccuracies ("Daggers drawn as black leather jackets take on the blue rinses", 8 April): Ian Rankin and I have not been in contention for the chairmanship of the Crime Writers' Association.

The chairman serves for only a year and stands down at the next AGM. Ian Rankin, my supportive vice-chairman for the past 12 months, was formally elected CWA chairman to universal acclaim last Thursday. And the CWA does not contain "two uneasily co-existing parties... who indulge in sporadic warfare".

Our writing membership of about 400 (the association also encompasses publishers, booksellers, reviewers and agents) reflects every aspect of crime-writing.

Much of today's most interesting new fiction is classified crime, but individual authors can't be pigeon-holed; the stereotypical crime novel no longer exists and battle lines cannot be drawn.

The in-fighting that characterises many other societies is absent from the CWA. Do we release aggressive tendencies into our writing? Whatever the reason, our meetings are enjoyable social events.

The unfortunate episode involving PD James arose out of an interesting discussion on moral issues conducted in our confidential in-house magazine *Red Herrings*. It was distorted by the media and fanned by a few ambitious writers who recognised a useful publicity bandwagon.

The CWA welcomes all shades of crime-writing. Ian Rankin won the prestigious CWA Macallan Gold Dagger in 1997. Other recipients in the Nineties include: Barbara Vine, Colin Dexter, Minette Walters, Val McDermid, Ben Elton and James Lee Burke. Not a blue-rinse brigade. Diverse, yes. At war, no!

Praise where praise isn't due

MONDAY BOOK

GLYNDEBOURNE: AN OPERATIC MIRACLE
BY JOHN JOLLIFFE. JOHN MURRAY. £25



Picnickers on the lawn at Glyndebourne

Tom Pilston

MONDAY POEM

HIGH TIDE, CATFORD
BY CLARE MACDONALD SHAW

Live at the terminus for a fast bus home.
Not this one's a 47, racing for our flats,
so jump it at the lights. Conductor's upstairs,
totting cash. Hang off the deck, swinging out
in the nightstream, the wash of air. Schooner
rounds the cinema, tilting past dark creeks
of driveways. Hate to land up there; the flats
are dull enough, but high tide should float
our boat again. Keep escaping –
triangle sail from the mast, hair blown,
arm free, navy skirt for canvas – oh,
feet gone too. Nearly flew the crossbones.
Pilot's seen me. Tired of life already? Get inside.
It's late to be out. Sit, behave; learn to shoot
films in the head. Tonight: *My Last Typhoon*.

From Clare MacDonald Shaw's first collection, 'Blue Fever', published at £7 by Blackwater Press, PO Box 5115, Leicester LE2 8ZD

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NICK KIMBERLEY

Cardinal Raúl Silva

CARDINAL RAÚL Silva Henriquez, former archbishop of Santiago, was an outstanding example of the best of the Roman Catholic episcopate in Latin America, a man of humility always active for the poor and for human rights, never free under right-wing dictatorships of threats against his life. He took a genuine pride in being from a family of *huasos*, Chilean peasants.

As with many others of his outlook, notably the murdered Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador and Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns, archbishop of São Paulo, his courage was seldom admired and his views seldom taken into account at the court of Pope John Paul II. His retirement from the archbishopric in 1983, tendered to the pope when he reached the suggested retiring age of 75, was accepted with indecent haste.

The Vatican was nurturing its strong relationship with General Augusto Pinochet - which, as its recent intervention on his behalf with the Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury has demonstrated, remains strong - and was happy that an irritant to that relationship was no more.

Raúl Silva was born the 16th of 19 children of a poor family in the southern city of Talca. After taking a law degree in Santiago he entered the Salesian order in his mid-twenties, going on to study and be ordained in Turin in 1938, an experience which gave him an early experience of fascism.

John XXIII named him bishop of Valparaíso in 1959. He was appointed archbishop of Santiago in 1961, becoming cardinal the following year. He played a major part in the Second Vatican Council. As with most of the Chilean hierarchy he had a good relationship with the Christian Democratic government of President Eduardo Frei Montalva (father of Chile's current president Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle) who was elected in 1964 and handed over the sash of office to his constitutional successor the Socialist Dr Salvador Allende in 1970.

Many foresaw a stormy relation- ship between church and state after the inauguration of Allende's wobbly six-party Popular Unity coalition, not just on ideological grounds but also because of the wide difference in outlook between the undemocratic and ascetic son of the soil and the ebullient middle-class politician, a bon vivant and freemason. The storm never came since the two men got on well, seeing in each other

a shared concern for the common man and at the disgusting conditions in which Chilean society condemned millions to live. Allende, too, seeing enough threats at home and abroad, cannot have wanted the enmity of a powerful and well-organised church.

In his memoirs Silva recounted how Allende had said to him, "I can promise you, Don Raúl, that I won't touch the Church, not even with a rose petal." Though there were tensions with Allende, notably about reform of education, they were overcome. "He was always prepared to talk and find a solution," said the cardinal in an interview

As Silva made his ceremonial obeisance to the new pontiff in St Peter's he flouted protocol, bent his ear and begged him to throw the Vatican's weight against the generals as they were mobilising their armies

given in 1983. During the Allende years his refusal to manoeuvre against the elected government and throw in his lot with those who were seeking its overthrow alienated him from many rich Chileans.

Silva, as many other Chileans, suffered a rude awakening when the military plotters led by Pinochet overthrew their superior officers and staged a bloody putsch on 11 September 1973.

An early experience of what things were going to be like came, for instance, when an emissary from Pinochet arrived at the cardinal's house a few days after the coup, accompanied by an army chaplain in uniform and carrying a pistol. Ascanio Cavallo, historian of the time, recounts how the cardinal had the following conversation with the priest:

"What on earth are you doing with that pistol in your belt, hombre?"
"Your Eminence, these are dangerous times."

"But you're a priest!"
"I'm a military chaplain, Your Eminence..."

"And what does that mean? Are you going to shoot with that thing? Are you going to kill somebody?"

About the same time Silva vetoed the wish of the successful plotters to have a Te Deum for the new regime celebrated in some military unit. Guided by Silva the bishops' conference angered the military by its refusal to refer to the coup as a patriotic act of national salvation.

Some of his brother bishops, however, were more enthusiastic for the putsch. One sent his bishop's ring to the junta as "a modest contribution to the work of Chile's reconstruction." A few weeks later another said in reference to the abolition of the Congress: "It's a great benefit to the country that the Honourable Governing Junta has imposed political silence for a long period."

Seeing the extent of the killings, torture, exile and other excesses Silva moved swiftly to create an ecumenical relief organisation, the Comité Pro Paz, to aid the victims. Presided over by a Catholic bishop, its leaders included Jews and Christians alike.

Pope Paul VI was fully informed of the desperate situation in Chile and was ready to move. He wrote a confidential letter to the Chilean bishops expressing his horror at the Junta's "bloody repression" but his ministers were dubious. The nuncio Monsignor Sotero Samz begged Don Raúl to dissuade the Pope from publishing it.

In an uncharacteristic blunder the cardinal went to Rome and did that, an action which he was later to regret. Two years later after the British surgeon Dr Sheila Cassidy had been comprehensively tortured by the secret police who were under the close personal control of the dictator, Silva begged Paul VI to denounce Pinochet's regime publicly and staged a bloody putsch on 11 September 1973.

Meanwhile Pinochet's men encouraged the Vatican to have the uncooperative Silva removed from the primacy of Chile. Parallel to that the regime made efforts to blacken his name linking him to supposed financial irregularities. The Pope had a discreet investigation made which cleared him and subsequently gave him more Vatican money for his charitable works.



Silva with General Pinochet after a religious ceremony in Santiago, 1980 AP / Santiago Llanquin

Giving the military the slip, Silva abolished the Comité Pro Paz, which the regime was threatening to close down by force, and cleverly founded a new body, the Vicariate of Solidarity, a purely archiepiscopal venture under his personal control to assist the persecuted. In 1978 its labours were recognised when the UN decided to give it its human rights award in a ceremony in New York. That year Pope Paul died and Silva attended the conclave to elect the new pope in the midst of extreme tension between the military in Chile and Argentina over frontier disputes. Silva seized the initiative with Albano Luciani, the newly elected John Paul I, and a man with more immediate problems on his mind than the posturing of two South American dictators. As Silva made his ceremonious obeisance to the new pontiff in St Peter's he flouted protocol, bent his ear and begged him to throw the Vatican's weight against the generals as they were mobilising their armies.

Luciani's successor Wojtyla named to the nunciature in Santiago Monsignor Angelo Sodano, whose experience of Chile dated back to the last days of the civilian government and the first of the military dictatorship. Silva had high hopes of a good relationship with the man from Head Office. Sodano, however, in an attitude characteristic of the disloyalty that many Vatican diplomats have long shown to the needs of the local church, was keener on cultivating Pinochet than on aiding Silva. Now Sodano is a cardinal himself and Vatican Secretary of State, his actions in intervening last year with the British authorities for Pinochet cannot have come as a surprise.

Silva's resignation was announced by Rome in May 1983. General Pinochet's wife Lucia, ever keen to underline her and her husband's close relationship with their Maker, exclaimed, "It seems God has heard us."

Raúl Silva was succeeded by Archbishop Francisco Fresno de la Serna, living quietly and keeping his own counsel. His later years were overshadowed by Alzheimer's disease.

HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY

Raúl Silva Henríquez, priest, born Talca, Chile 27 September 1907; ordained priest 1938; Bishop of Valparaíso 1959-61; Archbishop of Santiago 1961-83; named a cardinal 1962; died Santiago 9 April 1999.

WHEN THE story of the blues' formative relationship with rock 'n' roll is one day told in full, the name of a white woman, wife of a furniture-store owner in Jackson, Mississippi, should be remembered as a seminal influence in the growth of the music.

In 1949, Lillian McMurry was helping her husband clear out a shop he had bought when she came upon a pile of old shellac 78rpm phonograph discs that had been left to gather dust upon a shelf. She put one on a turntable to find out what it was, and the wild sound she heard not only changed her life; it also set in motion a sequence of events that was to reach across the sea to influence young white boys like Eric Clapton and Jimmy Page to make a new kind of music. This music was rooted in the blues, but extended far beyond it into new pastures, far from the Mississippi cotton fields that had given it birth.

The first disc she played was "All She Wants to Do Is Rock", by Wynonie "Mr Blues" Harris, whose "Good Rockin' Tonight" was later to become a hit for Elvis Presley. Harris had been a professional performer since the age of 12, and had even appeared in the film *Hut Parade* of 1943. But to Lillian McMurry, he was completely unknown. Even more remarkable than her excitement at what she heard was the fact that, like most of the white middle-class of her generation, until then she had been completely unaware of the music being made on her doorstep by her African-American neighbours.

And while she is given credit for having "discovered" blues legends like the guitarist Elmore James and the harmonica-player Sonny Boy Williamson, the latter had been playing in his own radio show on KFCA radio in Helena, Arkansas, every lunchtime since 1941. She could have heard Sonny Boy just by turning the dial on her radio. But until then, no one had thought to put him on record. By doing so, McMurry joined the select band of record producers, like the legendary Ralph Peer, whose influence shaped the direction of the music.

Though he only cut one solo side with her, Elmore James was probably her greatest discovery. A remarkable slide guitarist who was one of the first bluesmen to electrify his instrument, James was a shy and reticent young man when she enticed him into the studio to record for her new Trumpet record label on 5 August 1951. In fact, he was so frightened of the microphone that she led him to believe it was "only" a rehearsal, when in fact she was recording his version of Robert Johnson's "Dust My Broom" (sometimes also known as "I Believe My Time Ain't Long"). He was so angry at the deception that he refused to record anything more for her; so the record was issued with a track by another artist on the flip side (though Sonny Boy Williamson persuaded James to play on hand sides, and he also accompanied Jesse "Tiny" Kennedy when Lillian McMurry took him into Sam Phillips' Sun studio in Memphis to record songs like "Strange Kind of Feelin'" and "Have You Heard About the Farmer's Daughter").

A woman of slight stature, born in Purvis, Mississippi, in 1922, Lillian Shedd had lived all over the state as her family moved around during her childhood until she settled down in Jackson to marry Willard McMurry in 1945. Her peripatetic upbringing must have hardened her up, because when she started recording blues musicians, her toughness in the studio became legendary.

Sonny Boy Williamson (born Aleck "Rice" Miller) was a gun-and-knife-toting tough guy, and McMurry always relieved him of his weapons when he came in to perform. She would tolerate no bad language in the studio, and when he lied to cursing and swearing on one occasion, she marched him out into the street at the point of his own gun, telling him to return when he'd learned better manners, which he did two weeks later, after an apology. However, he recorded most of his most famous tunes for her before he moved on to more famous labels like Chess, such as "Eyesight to the Blind" (which Pete Townshend included in the Who's rock opera *Tommy*), "Nine Below Zero", "Too Close Together", "My Down Child", "Mighty Long Time", "Pontiac Blues", dedicated to his producer's car, and even a song she wrote for him, "Red Hot Kisses".

When he died, she had the following legend placed upon the headstone for his grave, which she also paid for: "Alec Miller, better known as 'Willie' Sonny Boy Williamson, born Mar 12 1905, died June 22 1969. Son of Jim Miller and Mille Miller. Internationally famous harmonica and vocal blues artist discovered and recorded by Trumpeter Raguins, Jackson Miss. From 1950 To 1953."

Trumpeter folded in 1955 and McMurry went back to working in her husband's shop. Last year, she was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame, one of the few record producers to be granted that honour.

KARL DALLAS

Lillian Shedd, record producer; born Purvis, Mississippi 30 December 1921; married 1945 Willard McMurry (died 1996; one daughter); died Jackson, Mississippi 18 March 1999.

Jack Bridle

JACK BRIDLE had a long and distinguished career as a fireman from 1931 to 1963, which embraced the temporary nationalisation of the country's various fire brigades during the Second World War.

He was "born under a hose-cart", the son of a fireman at the busy Shaftesbury Avenue station of the London Fire Brigade in 1907, when a fireman's working week was 144 hours; when he joined in 1931 Bridle's hours were still half that. Even so there was no shortage of recruits, and to improve his chances of following his father into the brigade, he had joined the Army in 1924. After six years in the Royal Engineers he qualified as an Instructor at the Command School in Alexandria and had to resist the temptation of a commission and an appointment to the Army Education College at Shorncliffe.

After joining the London Fire Brigade, he made rapid progress through the junior ranks and by 1939, within eight years, was one of the 120 District Officers, from whom the 20

superintendents were selected. The threat of war had increased promotion prospects; a new rank of Chief Superintendent had been introduced. But there was no national fire service; fire prevention and fire-fighting were the responsibility of local authorities, and some ran their brigades as an extra division of their police force. Others took a more enlightened and professional approach, and kept them separate.

Yet, despite a recent Royal Commission there was no responsibility for local authorities to co-operate with one another, and a distinct and almost aggressive parochialism prevailed. The new Auxiliary Fire Service of 1938 was by no means the single body that its name suggests; the constituent pumps and personnel were essentially auxiliary to one of the multiplicity of local brigades. At government level such planning that was possible was in the hands of the Police and Fire Brigade Division of the Home Office, their hands strengthened by administration of government grants

for additional equipment, which included German turntable ladders.

In 1939 the Home Secretary decided that his office must do what it could to provide some centralising influence, and augmented his tiny Inspectorate of Fire Brigades, largely

of local authorities, and some ran their brigades as an extra division of their police force. Others took a more enlightened and professional approach, and kept them separate.

Instead of leaving machines in their own stations if they were not ordered to a fire, the LFB had a procedure based on three standard messages - if the incident could be dealt with by local resources, the officer in charge made a home call; if greater strength was needed, a district call brought in appliances from further afield, and if things got worse a brigade call mobilised the entire brigade. District and brigade

calls meant that stations near the fire were reinforced from within the brigade so that cover was maintained over the entire area, even though many of the mobilised machines might not be sent to the incident. This proven procedure meant that time was saved in concentrating reinforcements where they were needed.

There was another precedent of which the Home Office and a London officer would have been aware, based on the 1917 plan whereby London and most if not all the adjacent brigades gave one another mutual support in mobilising against the first air raids on this country. Thus to say that Bridle's plans clashed with a Home Office doctrine that represented the autonomy of local authorities by leaving a concentration of local appliances at their native stations and summoning - or requesting - reinforcements from further afield is perhaps something of an exaggeration. How much operational responsibility was given to seconded officers is not always clear, but Bridle

was called to account by the legendary A.L. (later Sir Arthur) Dixon, a Cambridge wrangler who had entered the Home Office in 1903 and was then an assistant under-secretary in the Police and Fire Brigade department.

But nationalisation of the 1,600 various fire brigades was strategically essential in wartime, and in 1941 they were reconstituted as a single National Fire Service of 39 Fire Forces. Bridle at 34 was by far the youngest of the Fire Force Commanders, and it is significant that he was appointed OBE the next year. His first command was of 23 Area, which covered Warwickshire and the West Midlands; in 1943 he was given the larger command of 4 Area, based at Leeds. Thereafter he saw little of the war on the Home Front and, when it ended and the National Fire Service was restored to the counties and boroughs of the day, he ended his fire-fighting career as Chief Fire Officer of West Sussex from 1948. In 1963 he retired to Guernsey. A.B. SAUNDERS



Bridle: 'born under a hose-cart'
Alfred John Bridle, fire-fighter; born London 30 June 1907; OBE 1942; married 1936 Eva Talbot (two sons); died St Peter Port, Guernsey 27 January 1999.

Metropolitan Pymen

A MEMBER of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church episcopate for almost the entire period of Communist rule, Pymen surprised everyone in post-Communist Bulgaria by siding with a dissident faction that was seeking reform in the Church. The rebels were particularly gunning for Patriarch Maxim who, they said, had been appointed by the Communist government in 1971 rather than being freely elected according to church canons.

Pymen, who had worked closely with the Communist regime himself and had been one of Maxim's closest colleagues, was an unlikely leader for the rebel faction, but in May 1992 he formed a "renewed synod" consisting of 12 bishops who

rejected Maxim. The rebels took over the Church's headquarters in central Sofia. In July 1996 the dissidents names Pymen as their Patriarch in Maxim's place, a decision not recognised by the majority of the Church within Bulgaria or by the Orthodox Churches in the rest of the world.

The unseemly schism also had political overtones: Maxim and his supporters had the backing of the Socialists (the reformed Communists), while Pymen and his supporters received the backing of the Union of Democratic Forces.

Although the Bulgarian Church has not traditionally enjoyed such fervent support as the national Churches in other Orthodox countries, this dispute did nothing to raise its prestige. The sight of robed clerics coming to blows over church premises disgusted many people.

Born Enev Nedelchev in Chirpan, not far from Plovdiv, he took the religious name Pymen on becoming a monk in July 1933. The following year he was ordained a monastic priest. In December 1947 he was consecrated bishop and assigned to Stobi. He was transferred to become Metropolitan of Nevrokop (based in Blagoevgrad) in 1953, and it was there that he remained until 1992.

When the dispute arose in 1996 as to how far the Church should repent for its Communist-era collaboration, the dissident faction was led by

a monk priest, Father Hristofor Suvčev. A number of bishops threw in their lot with him, but few thought that Pymen would be among them. But when he did so the synod loyal to Maxim removed him as Metropolitan of Nevrokop and the diocese was temporarily put in the hands of Bishop Ioan of Dragovista, the head of the Rila Monastery.

When Pymen was proclaimed patriarch in 1996, Maxim promptly excommunicated him. But Pymen was unbowed, continuing to rule his rump of the Church despite his failing health. In March 1998 he even consecrated an Archbishop of Montenegro.

Hopes of resolving the schism came in October 1998, when a pan-

Orthodox synod was held in Sofia, bringing together the Ecumenical Patriarch, six other patriarchs and 20 metropolitans. A formula was worked out whereby Pymen and his supporters formally repented to the synod, the anathema on Pymen was lifted and he and his supporters were restored to full communion and he was granted the title "former Metropolitan of Nevrokop".

Pymen did not himself attend the synod, but accepted the compromise. Maxim for his part gave up his seat and stood that he would resign soon afterwards and retire to a monastery (he was approaching his 84th birthday), but the deal soon unravelled when he announced that he had no intention of going.

FELIX CORLEY

Enev Nedelchev (Pymen), priest; born Chirpan, Bulgaria 13 June 1906; clothed a monk; as Pymen 1933; ordained priest 1934; Bishop of Stobi 1947-53; Metropolitan of Nevrokop 1953-92; named patriarch 1996; died 10 April 1999.

BIRTHS,
MARRIAGES
DEATHS

DEATHS

Things couldn't get worse? Try using the phone

OF ALL the things that have been placed on earth to try my patience – and gosh aren't there a lot? – none has been more successful over the years than AT&T, the American telephone company.

Given a choice between, say, spilling a beaker of hydrochloric acid on my lap and dealing with AT&T, I would always choose the hydrochloric acid as less painful. AT&T has the world's most indestructible payphones. I know this for a fact because I have never had an experience with AT&T from a payphone that did not result in my giving their equipment a thorough workout.

As you are probably gathering, I don't much like AT&T. But that's OK, because it doesn't like me. It doesn't like any of its customers, as far as I can tell. It dislikes them so much, in fact, that it won't even talk to them. It uses synthesised voices for everything now, which means that no matter how wrong things go – and you can be certain they will – you can never get through to a real

person. All you get is a strange, metallic, curiously snooty robotic voice saying things like: "The number you have dialled is not within a recognised dialling parameter." It is immensely frustrating.

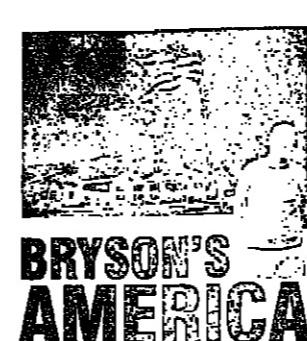
I was reminded of this the other day when I found myself stranded at Logan Airport in Boston because the mini-coach company that was supposed to pick me up and take me home, forgot to. I knew that it had forgotten me, and not broken down or had an accident, because as I stood at the designated pick-up point the familiar Dartmouth Mini-Coach van approached and, as I bent to pick up my bags, sailed past and continued on to the airport exit road and disappeared into the distance, on a general heading for New Hampshire.

So I went off to find a payphone to ring the mini-coach company – just to say hello, you know, and let them know that I was there and ready to go if they would only throw open a door and slow down

enough to let me jump on – and this meant calling AT&T. I gave a ruptured sigh at the prospect. I had just had a long flight; I was tired and hungry and stranded at a charmless airport. I knew it would be at least three hours before the next mini-coach was due. And now I had to deal with AT&T. I approached a bank of payphones outside the airport terminal with deep foreboding.

I didn't have the number for the mini-coach company on me, so I read the instructions for directory inquiries and rang the number. After a minute a synthetic voice came on and briskly instructed me to deposit \$1.05 in change. I was taken aback by this. Directory inquiries always used to be free. I searched through my pockets, but I had only 67 cents. So I conducted a brief resiliency test with the receiver – yes, still indestructible – grabbed my bags and stalked off to the terminal to acquire change.

Of course, none of the businesses would give change without a purchase, so I had to



buy a copy of *The New York Times*, *Boston Globe* and *The Washington Post* – each purchased separately, with a different note, as no other approach appeared to be allowable – until I had accumulated US\$1.05 in silver coins.

Then I returned to the phone and repeated the process, but it was one of those phones that are very choosy about what coins they take, and it seemed to have a particular dislike for Roosevelt dimes. It's not easy to feed coins into a slot when you have a

receiver pressed to your ear with a shoulder, and three newspapers under your arm, and especially not when the phone is spitting back every third coin you feed it. After about 15 seconds a robotic voice came on and started scolding me – I swear it, scolding me, in an irksome synthetic quaver – and telling me in effect that if I didn't get myself organised pronto it would cut me off. And then it cut me off. A moment later it regurgitated the coins I had deposited. But here's the thing. It didn't return all of them. Between what it had given back and what it wouldn't take, I now had just 90 cents.

So I conducted another, slightly more protracted resiliency test and trudged back into the terminal. I bought a *Providence Journal* and a *Philadelphia Inquirer* and returned to the phone. This time I got through to directory inquiries, announced the number I wanted and hastily pulled out a pen and notepad. I knew from experience that directory inquiries gives a

number just once and then hangs up, so you have to get it down carefully. I listened intently and started to write. The pen was dry. I immediately forgot the number.

I returned to the terminal, bought a *Bangor Daily News*, a *Poughkeepsie Journal* and a plastic ballpoint, and returned. This time I got the number, carefully recorded it and dialled. Success at last. A moment later a voice on the other end said brightly, "Good morning! Dartmouth College!"

"Dartmouth College?" I stammered, aghast. "I wanted the Dartmouth Mini-Coach Company." I had used up all my remaining coins on this call and couldn't believe that I would have to go back into the terminal yet again to accumulate more. I suddenly wondered how many of those people in America who come up to you on corners and ask for spare change were once just people like me – respectable citizens who had led normal lives and ended up destitute, homeless and in need of constant small

change for a payphone somewhere.

"I can give you the number if you'd like," the lady offered.

"Really? Oh, yes please."

She rattled off a number, clearly from memory. It was nothing like the number – not even remotely like the number – I had been given by AT&T. I thanked her profusely.

"No problem," she said. "It happens all the time."

"What, they give your number when people ask for Dartmouth Mini-Coach?"

"All the time. Was it AT&T you used?"

"Yes."

"Thought so," she said simply. I thanked her again. "It's been my pleasure. And hey – don't forget to give that phone a really good pounding before you leave."

She didn't say that, of course.

I had to wait four hours for the next mini-coach. But it could have been worse; I had plenty to read.

'Notes from a Big Country' is published by Doubleday at £16.99



Chris Moon with his mother, Doreen Moon: 'My lower leg's blown off, right hand's been amputated. I'll be fine'

Glyn Griffiths

Nicking a little kudos

The pitfalls of sharing a name with someone famous. By Nick Baker (no, not that one)

I'M GOING to try to be positive about this. After all, a woman from Hull who refers to herself as "Horny" wants to meet me, and 12-year-old Matthew from Essex is keen for us to get together to talk stick insects, and for me to give him tips about how to become a TV presenter.

OK Matthew – tip one: Find a good name. Something simple. Not too many syllables. Easy to spell. Like – well, Nick Baker. Only you can't have that. Matt, because someone else has got it.

The thing that irritates me is that he's good, my namesake. Nick Baker is straight, unaffected, not too cuddly, not too formal. And he knows what he's talking about. Crocodiles, insects, big cats, small dogs. My kids love him doing *The Really Wild Show* on BBC TV.

Everyone knows Nick Baker the wildlife man. Maybe my problem is that I don't specialise. I spread myself too thin. TV documentaries about telephones; radio programmes about anything from firearms to hypnotists. Magazine articles on studs in Belgium and Orson Welles in Vienna. I have written kids' books, and articles on children and the media. I run a small production company, with a bit of broadcasting and writing on the side. I'm a media minnow, maybe, but I was here first. I've got a 15-year start, at least. And now I have people saying: "I heard you talking about cockroaches the other morning on Radio 4..." If we were actors, of course, things would be different. Equity's rules state that every member has to have a different name. Harry H Corbett, the actor who played Steptoe's son, had to add that "H" to distance himself from Sooty's partner.

The BBC can't see a problem. A senior radio executive told me that he would be referred to as "the wildlife expert Nick Baker" on the air. It isn't happening. They still tolerate two of us.

There have been others. There's a rather good cartoonist with our name. And in one year I came across memorials to two dead ones, one on a park bench in the US, the other an announcement outside the church on Eel Pie Island on the Thames. Hey – have you thought of this, Nick Baker? When I die, people will think it's you. Think of the effect among your fans. The great croc-cuddler, snatched before his time. If that is, I insist on keeping my name.

I started by saying I'll be positive. So, Nick Baker, I hereby publicly give you my name. No strings. But if any cheques come my way meant for me, do the decent thing. In return, I'll forward all the Horny from Hull stuff. And me? From now on, I want to be known as Jenni H Murray.



INTERVIEWS BY GINA ROZNER

My Nemesis: the wrong Nick Baker

I never think, 'what if...?'

A FAMILY AFFAIR

In 1995 Chris Moon, now aged 36, was clearing mines in Cambodia for the Halo Trust when he was kidnapped by the Khmer Rouge. He survived. In 1995, when clearing mines in Mozambique, he was blown up by a mine. He lost his lower right leg and arm. Since then he has run more than 20 marathons including the Trans Sahara 240km race – the world's toughest race – all for charity. This week his autobiography, *One Step Beyond* (Macmillan, £16.99), is published. Doreen Moon, Chris's mother, aged 72, was recently widowed. She is a retired education clerk and lives in Wiltshire.

I was afraid that it would reduce my ability to concentrate, and I wouldn't be able to control my environment. The worst thing was feeling that I was dying, knowing there wasn't anything I could do about it; but I certainly wasn't going to moan. I can remember thinking, "I've done the very best I could; I believe I'm dying, but I'm not giving up." I couldn't give up. That's the worst failure – not trying your best – but undoubtedly it would have been much, much easier just to go to sleep.

They flew me to hospital and from there I was airlifted to Johannesburg. Colin Mitchell, my boss, who's an amazing man, rang my parents and said, "Chris has been injured; we don't know how bad he is. As soon as we know we'll let you know." And they just had to wait.

The next day I rang them and just told them exactly what happened: "I was walking in a cleared area. My lower leg's blown off, right hand's been amputated. I'll be fine. I'm just going to stay here and get better." I said to my mum, "Look, I really don't want anyone to come out. I'm in a good hospital; all I can do now is just lie here and get better." I spoke to them every day and we'd have a bit of a laugh, so they knew I was OK. It was senseless anyone coming out.

I don't resent anything and I don't feel bitter in any way, because basically life's

felt as though our lives had been on hold.

Funnily enough it didn't enter my head to go to South Africa to visit him, and I know people thought that was strange, but I knew my son and he wouldn't have wanted me to go; and yet I don't think you'd ever find a mother and son closer. I knew that once the recovery period was started, he'd be looking forward to making a new life, and I thought he'd be absolutely OK. We watched up lots of phone calls, but it was normal chat. We'd always chatted on the phone and this was no different.

I spoke to the hospital psychiatrist and asked him about shock: what was Chris's mental state? And he said that Chris was as sane as he or I was. Perhaps I should have been worried at that point!

As soon as he got to Roehampton Hospital his sister, father and I rushed off to see him. None of us was sad; no one was saying "oh dear this is terrible". Chris exhibited his stumps – exhibit 1 and exhibit 2, and we were fine, but we are a positive family. We've never viewed ourselves as losers. We've always been close, and none of us has ever been pessimistic.

Chris always did charity work – even as a boy he had a social conscience. That was something his father and I instilled in him. For years I was a guider, and then I ran the village youth club, and I was a volunteer at the local spastics society and Chris used to come with me. He's always been a caring person; and right was right, and wrong was wrong. He's not someone who believes in fudges.

Chris is not a victim. He chose to do that work and accepts that, and I think the same. All the accident did to Chris was make him more of what he was before, so it accentuated his good points. I hope he doesn't do anything else to cause me grief!

INTERVIEWS BY GINA ROZNER

My Nemesis: the wrong Nick Baker

While much of the dance world seems to have entered the doldrums, the Ballet de l'Opéra is currently offering some of the most exhilarating dancing and choreography seen in decades. By John Percival

Ballet is alive and well and living in Paris



Left to right: William Forsythe's 'Pas./parts', danced by Stéphanie Romberg and Jean-Guillaume Bart; Isabelle Guérin in Angelin Preljocaj's 'Le Parc'; and Ghyslaine Reichert with Lionel Lécaré/Moatti - Rodolphe Torette

Seen from London or New York, the future of ballet can look gloomy. Not much sign of good new choreographers to replace the outstanding generation who have died in recent years. But take the Eurostar to Paris, and the view looks brighter. The Ballet de l'Opéra, with a new programme by William Forsythe that includes two world premieres, is offering the most exhilarating display of dancing I have seen in a long time.

At the same time, thanks to enjoying the use of two theatres, the company has re-mounted a work created for it five years ago by the French-Albanian choreographer Angelin Preljocaj, which I had not seen before. This, too, is gripping and original. With further premieres by Jiri Kylian and Roland Petit in the pipeline, things are looking good.

Forsythe and Preljocaj, in very different ways, are both pushing forward the manner in which ballet can work. Forsythe's purpose (like Balanchine's before him) is to strengthen and extend technique, and to develop the spirit in which dancers approach their work. Speed, daring, endurance and flexibility are pushed to new extremes, and when once in while he makes the dancers slow down, this is certainly no rest cure. The new *Woundwork* is a case

in point. The "wound" in the title comes from winding, not wounding: the work is a double duet piece and the dancers often tie themselves in knots around their partners. This is an adagio piece, and a highly involved one. You have to take in two different duets side by side. The first thing you notice, as they begin motionless with their backs to the audience, is that Stephen Galloway's costumes give the women tutu skirts that stick out stiffly on one side while the other flops down. This presages an off-kilter motif in the choreography that requires the dancers to bend, twist, drape themselves in pretzel shapes and walk almost in a waddle, yet always with a base in pure classic style.

Playing with classicism and its forms is a feature in the other creation, which Forsythe calls *Pas./parts*, alluding to the single dance phrase (*pas*) that he started from and the 20 separate sections he elaborated from it, all explosively different from each other and scattering into successive or overlapping solos, duets, trios, quartets and even a septet.

The cast comprises eight women and seven men, and characteristically Forsythe has chosen them from all levels within the troupe, deploying them for their various qualities rather than by rank. So a junior couple, Eleonora Abbagnato and Jeremie Belingard, have a couple of

duets which they dance radiantly; and Peggy Gretel from the humbllest rank, the quadrilles, is given not only the opening solo but more featured entries than almost anyone else. Interestingly, this ballet would have been impossible at the Paris Opera a few years back, before the former directors Rosella Hightower and Rudolf Nureyev hacked away at the old, hierarchical rules forbidding junior dancers to pass in front of a star-

individual contributions are, however, the point of *Pas./parts*; it is the way they succeed each other in a breathtaking cumulative effect, contrast upon contrast, surprise upon surprise, every fragment building up over the course of 35 minutes until the mass finale that has the audience roaring its delight. Not many companies and not many choreographers could hope for such a hit.

Some people (not me) might have

There is no mistaking a real star when you see one, and whenever the brilliant young leading man Nicholas Le Riche is on stage, I defy anyone to take their eyes off him

Even under the more democratic approach, however, there is no mistaking a real star when you see one, and whenever the brilliant young leading man Nicholas Le Riche is on stage, I defy anyone to take their eyes off him. Forsythe has found a new, witty quality in him, as he partners his wife Clairemarie Osta and she tries to wriggle out of his grasp even while lifted high; but you see also his more serious power, much of the time, and he has a long solo that accelerates into an almost incredible tornado of movement around the stage.

Distinguished as many of the in-

reservations about the score imposed by Forsythe's frequent collaborator Thom Willems, but undeniably he provides a pulse that impels the drive of the dance all the time. And in another of the ballets given, the *Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude*, the choreographer turns to the Saint-Saëns allegro from *Symphonie No. 2* for a smirkingly dauntless display of straight virtuosity which the dancers tackle at speed. All this is the more familiar *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*, powerfully danced on the huge stage of the Palais Garnier. It makes an amazing performance.

Amazing is the word, too, for

Preljocaj's *Le Parc* at the Opéra Bastille. This shows a completely new way of making a three-act dramatic ballet. There is none of that silly realistic acting or heavy mime (at least, only once, for comic effect); there is no literal story – can you imagine what a relief this is after all those long dreary battles that ploddingly transpose a well-known play, novel or fragment of history? Instead, Preljocaj evokes a part of France's cultural heritage: the formality of dress, behaviour, literature and landscape that marked its 17th and 18th centuries. To the apt choice of some of Mozart's most memorable and best-loved music, groups of men and women engage in games and confrontations that enable them surreptitiously to hint at underlying emotions. These are sometimes seen only in a woman fainting, sometimes implied in a game of musical chairs, or snatched at during hide-and-seek among the trees.

Among this activity, two dancers become apparent as holding back a little from the others. A mutual desire obviously exists, but she wards off all his approaches until a group of modern-dress gardeners, anxious to propagate their charges, push her bit by bit towards compliance. The drama of the ballet consists in wondering how this tense, withheld relationship will develop. And the climax, when it comes, is terrific. The woman at last approaches and

kisses the man. He begins turning, slowly then faster, and she is swung up and out as they circle the stage, unsupported except by her arms around his shoulders, their lips still together.

It is the perfect visual metaphor for their love-making, so simple but difficult, so pure but impassioned. Preljocaj can put eroticism on stage better than any other choreographer I know, and his first cast, the miraculous Isabelle Guérin and Laurent Billaire, perform it to perfection.

The action moves quickly but deliberately; there are no intermissions; each scene advances the action at just the right pace. Everything is stylised, but never seeming artificial: Thierry Leproust's decor for instance, suggests a formal garden in terms of architectural shapes. And although the clothes are those of a past era, the feelings are those of today.

With these works in exclusivity, the company has an impressive collection of old classics (many in Nureyev's big, intelligent productions) and the modern classics of Balanchine and Jerome Robbins, the Paris repertoire, like its dancing strength, is in a healthy state. If only we could say as much of other companies.

Details of future performances are available on www.opera-de-paris.fr. Information and booking on tel: 01 33 836 697863.

Smash bang wallop

POP

IAN DURY AND THE BLOCKHEADS
BLACKHEATH CONCERT HALL LONDON

THERE COMES a time in every man's life when he must make the fateful decision – another night down the boozers, or a dinner party at home with a select few friends. But occasionally you can keep the whole family happy by taking them to a show by the patron saint of geezers, Lord Upminster himself, Ian Dury.

So a good-humoured crowd – after all, geezers with the missus in tow are always on their best behaviour – were thrilled, amused and entertained by Dury and his loyal Blockheads, longer-serving than the Arsenal back four but considerably more skillful.

Dury's well-publicised struggle with cancer – last year Bob Geldof even prematurely announced his death on a London radio station – has overshadowed his latest work. But this unheralded father of Britpop – what is Blur's *Parklife* but a funk-free nod to the man's style? – is enjoying a deserved resurgence. Last year's *Mr Love Pants* is his finest record in two decades, making up half of tonight's set, and is in no way inferior to old favourites such as *What A Waste* and *Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick*. His lyrical gift remains untarnished, as new songs such as "Jack Shit George", which addresses mortality by entreatting the young to consider their future without ever stooping to patronise, or the hilarious, rueful tribute to eating away a lifelong hangover – "Heavy Living" ("heavy sausage is the price you pay when you're on a corrodor") – clearly show.

However, this is no mere poetry reading with musical accompaniment. The Blockheads, including the old core of guitarists Chas Jankel and John Turnbull, Micky Gallagher on piano, and Norman Watt-Roy, looking strangely like Robert Lindsay in some Dickens adaptation, on the old "faith and grace", er, bass, are superb, and their unique blend of jazz, funk and music-hall is apparently effortless.

Dylan Howe is a fantastic substitute for the sadly missed Charley Charles behind the kit, while Dury's rasp is as filthy as ever. Not until "Bed O'Roses No 9" does he tire, yet the band can always lift the level.

The new "Mash It Up Harry", with its absurd "We're on our way to Wembley" coda, and the stomping "Itinerant Child", telling the long-running story of "Police V Travellers", are well-received. "Sweet Gene Vincent" and the inevitable "Sex and Drugs and Rock'n'Roll" bring the house down. The world's oldest stage invader ambles up and gives Dury a curiously appropriate cuddle. Clearly, reports of his demise have been greatly exaggerated.

STEVE JELBERT

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Today On this day in 1914 all hell was let loose in the West End when George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* opened; as Eliza Doolittle, Shaw's own fair lady Mrs Patrick Campbell had to utter the words "not bloody likely".

Tomorrow The Messiah had its first performance in 1742, in Dublin. The tradition of the audience standing up for the Hallelujah Chorus began later with an enthusiastic George II.

Wednesday The first commercial film show was on a "Kinetoscope" or peepshow device in New York in 1894; titles included *Horse Shoeing*, *Barber Shop* and the controversial mini-epic *Cock Fight*.

Thursday The Titanic went down in 1912, leading to disastrous loss of life, and 86 years later, a disastrous awarding of Oscars. In 1925 Sir James Barrie made Christmas come early to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital; even

better than being a blood donor, he gave the hospital the royalties from *Peter Pan*.

Friday The dramatist Aphra Behn died in 1689. According to Virginia Woolf, she was the first Englishwoman to make a living by writing, although she also moonlighted as a spy for Charles II.

Goya died in 1828; an expert in death studies, he referred to the series of his paintings which included *Madhouse*, *Procession of Flagellants and Tribunal of the Inquisition*, as "popular diversions".

Saturday The summertime blues came early for the classic rocker Eddie Cochran, when he was killed in a car accident during his 1960 tour of Britain.

Sunday The Italian tenor Enrico Caruso was in San Francisco to sing in *Carmen*, when the 1906 earthquake turned 28,000 buildings into rubble.

JONATHAN SALE

It's a mad world, my masters

THEATRE

THE COLONEL'S BIRD
THE GATE
LONDON

of this assumption when he was told to "fuck off" in his own language, and noticed a sign indicating that this was the Clinic of the Forty-Hot Matrons.

Boyce has developed this wonderful image of a mad, embittered state-within-a-state into a telling comedy about harmy idealism and touchingly misplaced reverence for and faith in the institutions of Nato and the United Nations. The piece is set in an insane asylum housed in a bombed-out and severely isolated

Bulgarian monastery. The familiar idea of a madhouse run by people who are more barking than the inmates is given a neat twist here. The straight-seeming newly arrived "doctor" Jonathan Iris turns out to be a secret heroin addict who has boned up on psychological illnesses just so that he can pose as a professional and have permanent access to morphine. Every evening, the hilariously acted patients gather to watch the news on a television set that can't receive sound. Instead, amazingly topical-sounding reports about Nato convoys and border disputes and humanitarian aid are invented on the spot by another of the inmates, a tanky trainee actor

the excellent Tobias Menzies, who

struggles to disguise the hefty handicap to his stage career (the character is stone deaf) by anxiously lip-reading.

Then, this potty little community is descended on by Damian Myerson's colonel – a fierce, quixotic visionary schizophrenic who, by a sort of homeopathy, licks the men into a ship-shape fighting unit. There is much play over where true sanity resides: here or in the outer world. The colonel decides that they must join Nato and that to do so, they need to declare the territory they are occupying a separate Balkan country. A madcap scheme of sending messages to European institutions by bird results in the daft yet haunting picture of the

company scanning the skies for the awaited reply. And finally, after a millennial march across Europe, the unit is seen still clinging to a pathetic hopefulness and still in training, but now forced to rattle the beggin-bowl outside the cathedral in Strasbourg.

Bumping into the author in the pub downstairs afterwards, I enquired whether he has altered any of the material in the light of the disaster in Kosovo. Boyce energetically denied this. Understandably not wanting to limit the applicability of his play, he argued that the picture it presents will always be relevant – a position with which we would not presume to quarrel.

PAUL TAYLOR

The long goodbye to Linda McCartney

POP

A CONCERT FOR LINDA
ROYAL ALBERT HALL
LONDON

celebration of the life of Linda McCartney was put together by Chrissie Hynde – members of The Pretenders act as house band for the evening – and Carla Lane, the sitcom writer.

According to the screens in the backdrop feature McCartney's photography, and the show is at pains to emphasise her pet concerns: it started with Chrissie Hynde and Johnny Marr performing The Smiths' "Meat Is

Murder", and at least two of the performers – Izzard and Sinead O'Connor – felt obliged to confess that they are not vegetarians (O'Connor, who went on to announce that she has been trained as a medium, dedicated a song to Princess Diana, and essayed a joke about the fidelity of Neil Finn's wife that elicited bemusement from Finn and a horrified silence from the audience, interrupted only by the distant clang of church bells and the hooting of owls in the rafters).

The star names emerged in the second half. Marianne Faithfull, Elvis Costello (whose twitchy, ferocious version of Nick Lowe's "Peace Love And Understanding" was the evening's clear highlight), the aforementioned George Michael and, to predictable hysteria, Paul McCartney, who began his contribution by saying he initially doubted enough people would be interested to justify the event, and singing Ricky Nelson's "Lonesome Town".

The evening ended with all hands on deck and the entire Albert Hall standing and singing along to "All My Loving" and "Let It Be" at a volume sufficient to drown out any noise being made on the stage: a spontaneous karaoke choir in fact.

ANDREW MUELLER

Marlowe and Shakespeare's original Elizabethan playhouse has been given a hi-tech restoration. By Nonie Niesewand

The new Rose blooms at last

Four centuries after London's first Elizabethan playhouse closed, the Rose Theatre is to bloom again. Not as a theatre but with its foundations, rubble ramparts, floorboards, Tudor-style pillars, posts and balustrades to the minstrels' galleries rising up in a ghostly white light from the real-life site of an archaeological dig.

This isn't floodlighting but fluorescent light used to create the 3D illusion of the Rose rising up out of the basement of the Seventies office block in Southwark it now inhabits. This will-o'-the-wisp Elizabethan theatre, created by set designer Bill Dudley, has a 20-minute sound and light show playing on glass screens in front of the foundations.

Try as they might, archaeologists have a tough job showing us that what they do is exciting. Patient trowel work uncovering ancient architecture ends up looking like a slag heap. The Rose theatre may be the first - and possibly last - Elizabethan playhouse buried in the swampy banks of the Thames, but today it looks like the moonscape the Clangers inhabited, a lumpy pudding-mix under a foot of water to keep the alluvial soil moist, lest centuries-old timber drains brought to the surface should just crumble like dust.

After centuries buried under clay and peat, the Rose was discovered in 1989 on the site of a proposed car park. Actors protested in the jaws of JCB diggers to save the theatre from being cemented, but Siefer's building went up in 13 storeys over it, with a carefully constructed basement to protect the Rose without digging load-bearing piles into its foundations. The offending office block was completed in 1989, towards the end of the Eighties property boom, and stood empty for four years, but now its tenants are the Health and Safety Commission.

The Rose needs funds to stabilise the marshy soil and preserve the timber parts. Visitors to the light-show resurrection will be charged £3 a head, towards a goal of £5m in the next two years. The Rose is hoping to attract some of the visitors from the other Elizabethan theatre rebuilt nearby, the Globe. The restoration work involves removing the concrete membrane that covers the foundations and the water, and using a spray-wax system to preserve the timber. The remains have not all been excavated yet because a sliver of the playhouse circle (about one third of the total area) lies under the London City Engineers depot. Boffins are hoping that Southwark Bridge excavations in the early 19th century didn't damage that bit.

Titus Andronicus and *Henry VI* played in this theatre. All Marlowe's first nights were held under a roof supported by just two posts across the stage while the audience swayed in the open air. Three thousand gathered regularly around the little stage, so small that Edward Alleyn closed it in 1606 - just seven years after it had opened.

We know from *Shakespeare in Love* that the Rose was as pretty as a picture in wattle and daub. Dame Judi Dench liked it so much that she bought the stage sets from Shepperton studios, even though they're just cardboard cut-outs with exteriors like billboards. She hopes to build them into an acting school in Islington on the site of the old Colling Music Hall.

The original Rose had "attiring rooms" for actors backstage, and three-tiered galleries on either side of the open stage. "Not as fol-de-roled as the *Indigo Jones*-look that Shepperton gave the theatre front," says Clare Graham, theatre project manager in charge of getting the Rose running as a tourist attraction. The version of the Rose created for the film would never have fitted on the real-life site. Besides, the foundations of an historic site are the equivalent of a Grade I-listed

building, so you can't mock up a film-set replica or build anything substantial around it. They couldn't have bought the film set for use as an adjunct to the Globe theatre; the structure is too tall for the undercroft. Besides, the mechanics of turning a stage set for films into a building are more complex. They need lavatories, disabled access, entrances, shops and restaurants, dressing rooms.

To bring this hybrid Rose to life, the Trust turned to the grand illusionist, set designer Bill Dudley. He likes the challenge of giving unprepossessing spaces an emotional charge. When Dudley staged a play on the First World War in a derelict dockyard in Glasgow, the audience were strapped into fairground seats while actors slithered in and out of trenches cut into the floor. Scenes were shifted while dry ice rolled out of these trenches like gas and gun fire. In the same space, Dudley staged *The Ship* with Glaswegian actors actually launching a ship into the Clyde. There wasn't a dry eye in the place.

So Bill Dudley wasn't fazed by having to stage a show inside a theatre that isn't exactly a theatre but more of a ruin covered by a preservation order in the basement of an office block. To his eyes, the flooding is a "magic pond". Dim daylight filtered through tall, arrow-slit windows makes it "like a cathedral, or a castle". He thought of Excalibur arising from the lake and created the illusion of the Rose arising from its ruins. To him, the basement space is "dramatic, the biggest and deepest structural interior in Europe".

The best magic never lets on how it's done, but a preview of the show

reveals its secrets. Laid all over the ring of the Rose theatre foundations are electro-luminescent pads like electric blankets made of 14 different layers of plastic, all with their own underwater leads plugged into a control box, insulated so that when Chris Smith switches on the show on 14 April "it doesn't go bang" in the words of Dorian Kelly, sparks-magician from Illuminati, the company working on the lights. The fluorescent lights give off an eerie white glow, shining through acetate film. You won't see this film in the murky waters, but inked with magic marker, it shows stones and floorboards, ramparts and timber drains, traced exactly to a millimetre from the foundations below. Light shining through these crudely inked but precise shapes makes 3D structures loom out of the water.

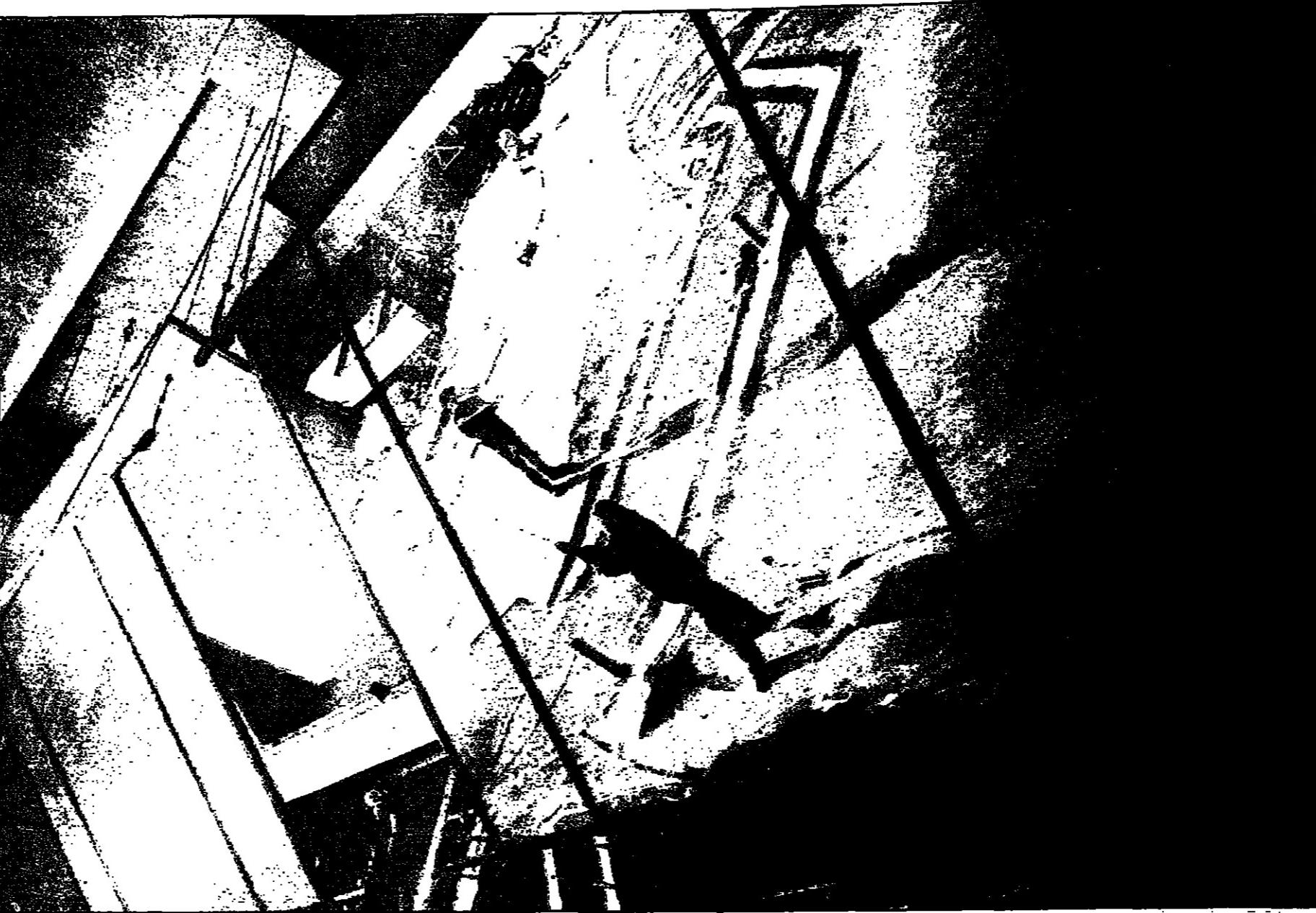
"Not the real thing like the Globe next door," Bill Dudley says, "but near as dammit. The whole point of the exhibition is that it is underwater. My brief was to give the public some idea of what lies beneath it. You'll never see the real Rose, since

it lies under listed buildings that are protected. But archaeology makes the building very accessible. On site I get quite emotional. I'm in contact with the history of London and it's a real labour of love."

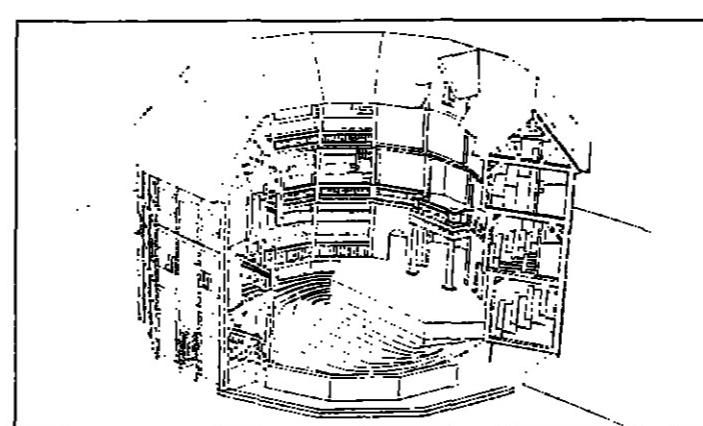
Two big glass screens slanted above the galleries beam out a sound-and-light show on the history of the Rose and its excavations against the early lit backdrop of the foundations. When Dudley began researching the site, he discovered there had been 67 brothels there - one every couple of yards. Snatches of bawdy songs ring out, and film clips from *Shakespeare in Love* since what he calls the "miraculous reconstruction of the Rose" informed filmmakers on the architecture of Elizabethan playhouses.

"In the 1500s, Southwark was the biggest entry into Europe. There are parallels in the 1990s with people who are attracted to London in search of work."

Architects often borrow theatrical devices, but they still have to make the shelter substantial. Bill Dudley's show is in direct response to the site. He couldn't build on the Grade I-listed monument even if he tried. This exhibition serves to remind people of its existence.



Inside the Rose. Above, fluorescence and strategically placed glass screens create a sound-and-light show. Below, the theatre's structure Kalpesh Lathigra



When Bill Dudley began researching the site of the Rose Theatre, he discovered there had been 67 brothels there - one every couple of yards

So you want to play the regeneration game?

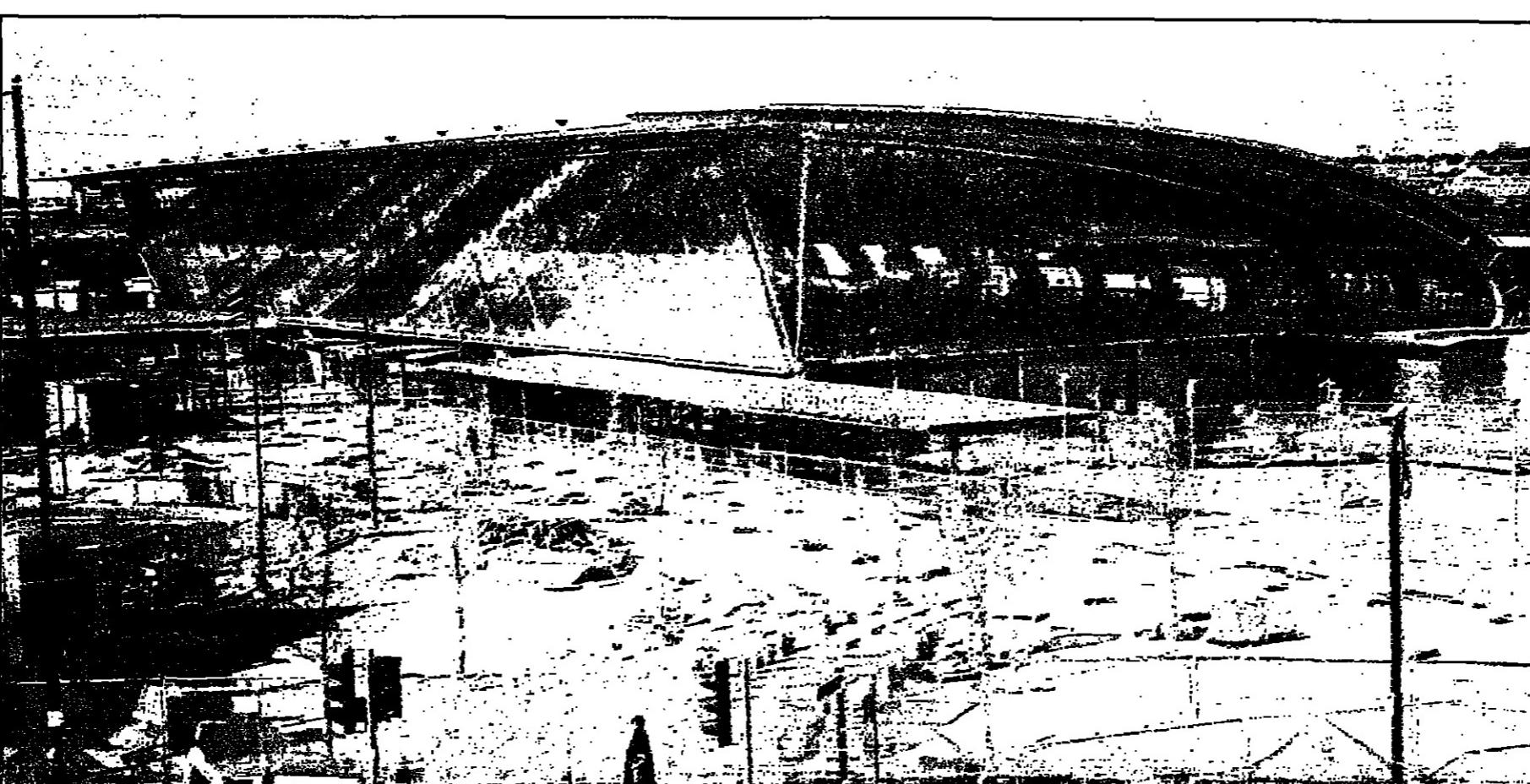
The prospect of developing 1,200 acres of east London - Europe's largest brownfield site - has really whet architects' appetites. By Nonie Niesewand

EMPIRE-BUILDING COMPUTER games are known as "God games". In the States, As the \$6 million Sim City players know, playing God begins with colonising a site. Flat or mountainous, inland or seaside, different areas give different degrees of difficulty. Then you position toxic waste dumps, power grids, roads, railways, airports, docks, cemeteries. You control the workforce and where they live, the green spaces, taxation, emergency services.

London's new mayor will have a chance to play Sim City for real, on 1,200 acres stretching across the Lea valley in east London, from Stratford to Thamseide, opposite the Millennium Dome. It is Europe's largest "brown-field site". The borough of Newham awarded responsibility for the masterplan to a Barcelona-based architectural team, MBM, which won a competition called the Arc of Opportunity - a pretty accurate description of the layout of the vining scheme. How it is implemented and funded will be first on the agenda for the mayor.

Since the Government and the Urban Task Force, headed by Lord Rogers, defined brown-field development as the solution to the erosion of the countryside, escalating land values have made luxury developments the only viable option for this valuable land. Will poorer, more diverse communities be pushed out? If so, where will they go? Potentially, this east London development is a minefield for the new mayor, especially as MBM have planned for 18,000 one- and two-bedroom homes to comply with changing British demographics.

And, unlike Sim City, the site is not virgin territory to colonise. MBM incurred some horrors: decaying docks, haulage yards and wastelands



Chris Wilkinson's glass-and-steel structure at Stratford station in east London, where expansion has improved the area's railway links Kalpesh Lathigra

that will have to be reclaimed and replanted. Pictures of herons, eels, squirrels and skylarks decorate the pages of a brochure on natural habitat. Few trees in circles are to be planted on the meridian running through Newham from Greenwich. Clean water is a priority: "excessive discharges" from the Abbey Mills sewers, which currently run

straight into the river, will be purified. Areas such as Canning Town, Stratford, Three Mills and Lower Lea Thamseide will have their pearl-queen cores developed in many different architectural styles. Streets are to be called "backbones"; an 80-hectare "wet square" with a fountain is planned for the area north of the Stratford station complex, to contain

flood waters. A huge flyover at the heart of the riverfront site will be wiped out but the Blackwall Tunnel will remain. The river Lea, which meanders through the site, is to be enhanced by reclaiming waterways and slicing through a canal.

Zoom in tight on the aerial view and you see the reason for the expansion all along the river Lea: rail

links. Chris Wilkinson's giant glass-and-steel ribcage of a rail terminus in Stratford has rail lines springing like arteries from its heart.

All four short-listed schemes - from Ove Arup, Pringle Richards Sharratt and Patel Taylor, as well as the winner from MBM - acknowledge the terminus's handsome presence in the landscape.

Ove Arup broke down an aerial view of the site into abstract cluster patterns, but the judges could not spot any continuity with the surrounding fabric.

Pringle Richards Sharratt's novel idea was to sheath the A13 in a glass tunnel so that birdsong could be heard above the traffic, a solution one of the judges, Ricky Burdett, de-

scribed as "prophylactic" - masking a problem rather than solving it.

Patel Taylor's pastel water-colours of pastoral scenes were broken up by a rather obvious insertion of the Barcelona housing grid pattern along the river Lea. However, MBM already had experience of brown-field redevelopment, having built the Olympic Village at the Games at Barcelona in 1992 and in the process turned industrial wasteland into popular downtown housing.

Now the Architecture Foundation is taking its road show to Newham. On 16 April Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport and MP for East Ham, will open the show at the Stratford Picture House. Residents are invited to register their vote and use the road show beacon, a collection of BT phones and videos, to gather and transmit ideas.

Lord Rogers says that, as architect of the Montevedro Thamseide block of apartments, which has a £1m price tag on a penthouse, he is only too aware of the dangers of unfettered market forces. "If you say to developers that they have to compete for a piece of land, then they have to get the maximum return for their money. Maximum return means luxury apartments. Luxury flats do not make a city on their own - you have to have a mix. You need regulations to make sure that you have social housing together with private housing."

The leader of Southwark Council, Niall Duffy, is honest about the pressures. He has 50,000 council tenants. "It would be remiss of my officers not to tell me when there's a piece of land that's worth some money. And if this money were generated, I could refurbish upwards of 2,000 properties. Tough choices, but I've got those options."

Buyer's guide...
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NETWORK

8 Masterclass



Peter Molyneux: 'Computer games are an independent form of entertainment; they don't fit snugly into films'

Glyn Griffiths

An audience with the games master

This week, Peter Molyneux will be previewing his latest computer game, 'Black and White', at Bafta. He talks to Jennifer Rodger about the convergence of films and gaming

The red-brick buildings in Surrey Research Park are deceptively bland. But in a small section of this sprawling estate lies Lionhead Studios, a computer game design company that probably accounts for more intelligence per square mile than is to be found in the whole of the surrounding Guildford area. And perhaps beyond.

"The people involved in making a computer game nowadays have to be just amazingly clever," says Peter Molyneux, Lionhead's founder, brimming with paternal pride. When I meet his team later on, it's clear that this is true about more than a few of Lionhead's employees.

Molyneux is no intellectual slouch either. Regarded as the grand master of the British computer games industry, he has been designing them since the early Eighties. In 1987 with Bullfrog - his company - he developed a whole new genre of gaming by developing Populus - the game as a deity ruling over his minions - which proved a popular alternative to the shoot 'em up and adventure games. Populus spawned many imitators but remains one of the top 10 most successful computer games of all time. A decade later, Molyneux sold Bullfrog to Electronic Arts, making himself a millionaire and leaving as his legacy, Dungeon Keeper - EA's biggest-selling game ever.

A popular speaker at new media conferences - he was once billed above Bill Gates - Molyneux was

nevertheless surprised by an invitation 18 months ago from Bafta (the British Academy of Film and Television Arts), asking whether he would be part of the new Bafta Interactive Media Committee. The computer games industry being courted by the likes of Lord Puttnam and Bafta would have been wishful thinking 10 years ago. Now, though, computer games and interactive media are considered to be an art form in their own right and have their own annual Bafta Interactive Entertainment Awards.

"Recognition by Bafta doesn't sound like a big thing," Molyneux says. "But sitting on their committee, you realise that it is a huge thing, and they take it very seriously." This was clearly the case when Molyneux chaired a Bafta Interactive event recently involving a panel of television producers, directors and special-effects artists who were asked to reflect on the topic: "When Games go to the Movies".

"I think Bafta's attitude is very much what the whole of the film industry's attitude is: they know that the computer game industry will - in some form - be a real entertainment option in the future. The big problem is that people who work in film are deeply, deeply scared of, or uneducated about, the computer game industry."

However, they will be able to learn from the master on Wednesday night, when the debut game from Lionhead, Black and White, will get its first public showing at Bafta, with Molyneux explaining the dif-

ferent stages of developing a game.

His game will no doubt be of interest to other Bafta members. After all, movie companies are now making films out of games, rather than the other way around. Film versions of Doom, Tomb Raider, Duke Nukem and Ridge Racer are all due for release this year.

"It's mainly because of Lara Croft," says Molyneux, explaining just how the tables have turned in the five years since the games industry - and the buying public with it - started going crazy for anything with a movie licence attached.

"Up until Lara," he points out, "we were playing with plumbbers and hedgehogs. All of a sudden the gaming industry found this weird thing called sex."

Will such game-to-film projects share a similar creative nadir with the Batman franchise? "Once Hollywood has used up all our properties, then that's it," Molyneux believes.

"Computer games are an independent form of entertainment; they don't fit snugly into films." And he has a point: interactivity is just one of the most obvious differences between going to see a movie and playing a computer game.

"How many really quality scripts does Hollywood come out with in a year? Can you imagine how much harder it would be to write an interactive script?"

Instead, Molyneux imagines that the games industry in the future will make games that have the home entertainment value of, say, colour television. But, as he openly admits, there are a number of changes the

industry must face: this is where the skill and insight from organisations like Bafta and people who work in the film industry come in.

"A lot of people say games are at the same stage as television was when it went from black and white to colour. I would argue that the games industry is still on the pier, a rotation machine showing *What The Butler Saw*," Molyneux says.

"That is where we are in film terms. compared with where we will be."

New consoles such as the next generation PlayStation (coming in autumn 2000) will soon be able to make games that look almost like movies. "Which means using a lot of the skills you use to make a film to make a game," Molyneux claims.

"The most important challenge is emotion," he says, and adds to this the need to develop non-linear plots ("if it's an adventure game they solve this puzzle, a shoot 'em up, you shoot down that person"), mass-market appeal ("people hate losing, they really loathe it. If someone isn't a dedicated gamer they aren't going to do the same thing over and over again"), expense ("to draw an old-style character would have taken two days, and it now takes three months") and accessibility ("you have the same amount of time it makes to move from television station to station to convince people that your game is good").

The creative talent at Lionhead is enough to make you wide-eyed in amazement, never mind the dedication, and it seems entirely possible that Molyneux and his crew will solve these problems, with or without

the help of the film industry. The most convincing evidence of which is Black and White, which is scheduled for a September release.

Imagine this: no long introduction, no icons, special options or text, but in its place an immediate window into Black and White's green and pleasant land. While the visual qualities are stunning, it's the plot that is truly innovative. To put it simply: the gamer is a leader in charge of a host of communities, but is never shown. As you play, the game catalogues all your decisions and develops a virtual representation of the way you move the mouse, how you teach your community, what moral code you live by...

Tapping into your moral codes is not so far removed from David Cronenberg's new Sci-Fi film, *Existenz*, in which a game taps into the deepest fears and desires of the players. In Black and White, if you are an evil leader, you will see your dark soul reflected back at you.

Or, as Molyneux puts it: "You invent the morality, you are not playing a character that someone else invented. Which is very, very different. And if you are in a bad mood one day, the game will play differently from when you are happy. It's Tamagotchi a million years on."

Peter Molyneux previews *Black and White* this Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm at Princess Anne Theatre, Bafta, 195 Piccadilly, London. Members free, non-members £7.50. For more information see the Bafta website (www.bafta.org)

A rethink about the Net

WHEN GUTENBERG'S press fired its first info salvo into an unsuspecting world, there were a few optimistic souls who saw it as a tool that would change things for the better.

Some 500 years later, many, myself included, have been of a not dissimilar opinion - that the Internet will make the world a better place.

Perhaps it's time for a rethink. After all, Gutenberg's first mission was to print the Bible, and it's hard to see how that could make the world worse. But, in many respects, the world did get worse on account of the printing press. Mean-spirited tomes could be published as easily as good ones. The fact that people had an inexpensive way to influence large groups of people was bound to create friction.

But at least one observer says that the vernacular Bible, printed in languages other than Latin, helped bring large, previously fractious groups together into what became nations, people sharing a common language. While that may seem like a good idea, nations eventually got around to coveting their neighbour's stuff, and pretty soon you had behaviour such as imperial expansion and global wars to add to humanity's misery.

The Church eventually caught on to the fact that vernacular Bibles were having unexpected consequences, and tried to ban them. When Europe was a largely illiterate place, the Catholic Church held great power in part because it had a monopoly on information, kept in a code, Latin, that only the élite faithful could read and pass on to the masses.

It was like owning the only television network, and running commercials only for The One True Product.

The vernacular Bibles were a reason for more people to aspire to learn to read, which led to local opportunities to influence the masses.

Though books could be distributed locally pretty quickly, it took a while for word to get to Rome, and longer for the response to return.

While he was perhaps best known for his written missives, Martin Luther used the press particularly effectively to fly in the face of Rome's authority. Luther's published writings were so effective that for a time the King of France banned all books within his borders to make it harder for people to conceal Luther's proscribed texts in his Catholic realm.

That may have been a classic case of shooting the messenger, and an inanimate messenger at that, but Luther also exploited the press by actively founding schools to teach people, especially children, to read, to influence young minds with his version of the Word.

Since books also helped to accelerate and spread technology, they can share some of the blame for the misuse of said technology.

Gutenberg and those who followed probably didn't set out to make it easy to distribute plans for weapons, artillery tables and the like, but there were certainly unexpected consequences from the changes wrought by the invention of printing.

And so I have to wonder:



CHRIS GULKER

The Internet seemed like a good idea at the time. But now I'm not so sure

whether this millennium's latest contribution to shifted paradigms, the Internet, won't nurture ill along with good.

I've often thought that children who grow up on a global network, e-mailing peers around the world, will be much less fearful and suspicious of other tribes.

Indeed, it seems as if the world has begun a shift to a place where national boundaries and ethnicities count less, and shared interests and ideas count more.

I've watched my teenage stepson engage in conversations with German children - and other kids from who knows where - in chat rooms or via e-mail because they liked the same sort of very loud music. Their conversations were much less about their respective countries and much more about MTV.

Certainly, hate sites are an unwelcome addition to the World Wide Web. Hateful people have always exploited whatever medium was handy - bathroom walls, for example - to spread their vile wares.

No great surprise, I guess, that they've found the Net. But the subject here is unintended consequences, and hatemongers actively promote evil outcomes - there's nothing unintended or unexpected about their expression.

What sorts of things may be lurking beyond the ken of generations raised with one-way publishing - print and broadcast - as the world goes to two-way networks? Lacking experience, we're probably missing some of the things, and those somethings may be pretty nasty.

We have already seen the sorts of antics that hackers can get up to. Some guy half a world away can type some code and name it after a topless dancer in a Florida bar, and suddenly, I've got a big problem right here in my office or den.

Do you recall any Internet pundits forecasting the Melissa virus?

And the global network's millions of computers mean that the hackers can take advantage of some well-known maths to do really rotten things.

Melissa tapped into geometric growth by getting every computer it infected to send an infection to 50 more, meaning that pretty soon the virus was actively being spread by computers at the rate of 50 times 50 times 50 times - you get the idea. Melissa evinces power that a Luther could only long for.

cj@gulker.com

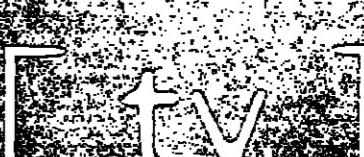
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NEW FILMS

BEDROOMS & HALLWAYS (15)

Director: Rose Troche
Starring: Kevin McKidd, Jennifer Ehle
Bedrooms & Hallways, the latest offering from the *This Life* school of British film-making, sees Kevin McKidd's giddy Londoner being put through all manner of romantic hoops in the run-up to his 30th birthday. Ker's orientation arrow spins from gay to straight, his mates offer endless advice, and Simon Callow pops up as a New Agey men's group leader. Rose Troche's smooth direction and McKidd's winsome acting compensate for an often smug and lightweight script.

West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket. *Repertory:* The Pullman Everyman

A CIVIL ACTION (15)

Director: Steven Zaillian
Starring: John Travolta, Robert Duvall
John Travolta's ambulance-chasing lawyer takes a shot at redemption in this complex and frequently absorbing courtroom saga that nonetheless raises inevitable comparisons with Sidney Lumet's *The Verdict*. Culled from a true story, A Civil Action spins a David-and-Goliath-style drama, in which blue-collar locals go head to head with the big corporations who poisoned their water. Zaillian negotiates the legal intricacies with ingenuity.

West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, And local cinemas

THE FACULTY (15)

Director: Robert Rodriguez
Starring: Elijah Wood, Shawn Hatosy
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.

West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

HIGH ART (18)

Director: Lisa Cholodenko
Starring: Ally Sheedy, Radha Mitchell
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.

West End: Curzon Soho, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green

NÔ (15)

Director: Robert Lepage
Starring: Anne-Marie Cadieux, Alexis Marin
Nô's third feature obliquely spotlights Quebec's push for independence in 1970 with an absurdist parallel narrative that crosscuts between the trials of a troubled actress and her activist boyfriend. But its fascinating elements fail to gel; its scenes unravel, its reach exceeds its grasp.

West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Barbican Screen

ORGASMO (18)

Director: Trey Parker
Starring: Trey Parker
Orgazmo looks like the love-child of *Boogie Nights* and *Flesh Gordon*: a gambling send-up of the porn industry. Parker stars as a Mormon-turned-skin-flick superstar; Robin Lynne plays the fiancée who stumbles upon his guilty secret.

West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket. *Repertory:* The Pullman Everyman

SLAM (15)

Director: Marc Levin
Starring: Saul Williams, Sonja Sohn
Even if slam-poetry's clanking rhymes make you want to "slam" the perpetrator's head in a car door, Marc Levin's drama still carries an emotional force. Saul Williams plays an Afro-American Everyman, busted on a drug charge before finding freedom of expression through his rap stylings. Levin's story is preachy and simplistic; earthy and earnest. Much like slam-poetry itself.

West End: Metro, Ritzy Cinema, Local: Holloway Odeon, New Stratford Picture House

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18)

A liberal essay on right-wing fanaticism, this nonetheless indulges in some dubious Nazi chic as it charts the moral slide of a blue-collar racist (Edward Norton). But it does boast a stunning performance from Oscar-nominated Norton. *West End:* Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

ARLINGTON ROAD (15)

Mark Pellington's intriguingly staged paranoia thriller sees Jeff Bridges' college prof becoming suspicious about the antics of his outwardly respectable neighbour (Tim Robbins). *West End:* UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

AN AUTUMN TALE (CONTÉ D'AUTOMNE) (U)

Eric Rohmer's new romantic drama is airy-elegiac and as warm as sunshine. *West End:* Plaza, Warner Village West End

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12)

Hugh Wilson's Cold War satire begins promisingly enough, but it soon nosedives into brash predictability. With Alicia Silverstone and Brendan Fraser. *West End:* Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

CENTRAL STATION (15)

Central Station trails Fernanda Montenegro's retired schoolteacher and her abandoned nine-year-old charge on a hunt for the boy's missing father. *West End:* Curzon Mayfair, Gaze Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION) (15)

Filmed using natural light, natural sound and a hand-held camera, Festen begins in a rush of pure, unfettered drama. Its rawness is largely contrived, but by the end you're too hooked to care. *West End:* ABC Pantown Street

GODS AND MONSTERS (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. *West End:* Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, The Tricycle Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. *Repertory:* Riverside Studios Cinema. And local cinemas

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)

Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Anand Tucker's warts-and-all biopic of the Du Pré sisters, Hilary (shy, married flautist) and Jacqueline (world-famous cellist). *West End:* ABC Pantown Street

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA) (PG)

Roberto Benigni's comedy, in which the writer-director stars as a clowning Jewish bookseller in fascist Italy. *West End:* ABC Swiss Centre, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Gate Notting Hill, Curzon Memento, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket. And local cinemas

WAKING NED (PG)

Mighty Joe is a mutant gorilla, who hangs out in the jungles of Africa with his Tarzan-type protector. The whole thing is disposable Disney fluff, yet it boasts a ready charm that's hard to dislike. *West End:* Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (15)

Charles Laughton's 1955 drama hinges on a legendary bit of screen villainy from Robert Mitchum as a murderous preacher. *West End:* Curzon Soho, Renoir

PAYBACK (18)

Revisiting the source that inspired John Boorman's Point Blank, this revenge thriller sends its double-crossed-and-left-for-dead anti-hero (Mel Gibson) on a mission to get his money back and to get even. *West End:* ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

PEASANTVILLE (12)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. *West End:* Plaza, Warner Village West End

PLUNKETT AND MACLEAN (15)

Plunkett and Maclean are rakish Dick Turpins cutting a dash through 18th-century society. Plunkett (Robert Carlyle) packs a pistol, while Maclean (Jonny Lee Miller) romances a debutante (Lizzy Tyler). Yet instead of a decent plot, director Scott offers noise and pop-prime visuals. *West End:* ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

THE RUGRATS MOVIE (U)

Given the small-screen success of the *Rugrats* (cartoon toddlers up to no good), a feature-length foray was always in the offing. Kids, no doubt, will eat that up. Adults should simply grin and bear it. *West End:* Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE THIN RED LINE (15)

Terrence Malick's long-awaited return to directing is a fabulous, fever-struck war film. A cast of familiar faces (John Travolta, George Clooney) play second fiddle to the creeping narcotic mood. *West End:* Odeon Mezzanine, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket. And local cinemas

THE WITNESS (PG)

Franco Zeffirelli's *Tea with Mussolini* ambles through its tale of dotty Brits (Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, John Bowler) drift in Mussolini-era Tuscany. *West End:* Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys. *Repertory:* Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

THE WITNESS (PG)

Good news: Ned, a salt-of-the-earth resident of Tullymore, has won the lottery. Bad news: Ned is dead. Cue a rattle-bag of comedic misadventures as two local scalawags scheme to get their paws on the loot. *West End:* Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Virgin Chelsea. *Repertory:* Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

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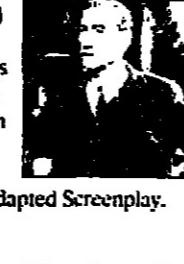
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THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

GODS AND MONSTERS (15)



A droll speculation on the last days of 1930s horror auteur James Whale (Ian McKellen, right), who is magnetised by the alluring form of his Beverly Hills gardener (Brendan Fraser). Director Bill Condon won an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

PLEASANTVILLE (12)

Two Nineties teenagers are "sucked" into the world of a favourite Fifties sitcom and begin to exert a dramatic influence on its conformist black-and-white idyll. A witty parable about prejudice and change.

HIGH ART (18)

A portrait of the artist as lesbian screw-up. Lisa Cholodenko's bitterly witty take on New York living (and dying) boasts one of the performances of the year from Ally Sheedy.

THE FACULTY (15)

Kevin Williamson does it again with this sci-fi tale of alien invaders. Beautiful people, a sharp script, subversive morals. Piper Laurie... Why can't all teen films be like this?

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)

This enjoyable, Oscar-laden historical romp suggests how romance fuelled Shakespeare with the inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow (Best Actress) head an impressive cast.

ANTHONY QUINN AND CHARLOTTE O'SULLIVAN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

GOOD (Donmar Warehouse, London)

Starring Charles Dance, CP Taylor's play about accommodations with conscience is revived in a sensitive production by Michael Grandage. *To 22 May*

GROSS INDECENCY (Gielgud Theatre, London)

The artfully fractured form of Moises Kaufman's compelling play about Oscar Wilde manages to present the writer in all his complexity. *Booking to 1 Jun*

FORBIDDEN BROADWAY (Jermyn Street Theatre, London)

Deliciously spiritual and tremendously funny selection of musical theatre spoofs from Sondheim to *The Lion King* via Elaine Paige. *To 16 May*

COLOMBE (Salisbury Playhouse)

Up-and-coming director Jonathan Church signs off at Salisbury with the characteristically bold and imaginative choice of an Anouilh comedy (right) set in Paris's theatrical demi-monde. *To 17 April*

UNCLE VANYA (Mercury Theatre, Colchester)

Gregory Flory stars in the Chekhov classic – the second leg of Mercury Theatre's brave experiment in forming a resident ensemble of actors for nine months of the year. *To 24 April*

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

JACKSON POLLOCK (Tate Gallery)

Big, revelatory retrospective for the wild hero of Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master), legendary for his great drip paintings (right), but virtually unknown here for 40 years. *To 6 Jun*

PORTRAITS BY INGRES (National Gallery)

Some of the smartest, most intense portraiture ever. Men as icons of power; women as exquisite *mélange* of flesh and fabric. *To 25 Apr*

HENRI MICHAUX (Whitechapel Gallery)

He travelled. He wrote. He took drugs. And, inspired by grief and melancholy, he created amazing, wobbly hobbly wibbly scribbly fine-grain line drawings. *To 25 Apr*

ANDREAS GURSKY (Dean Gallery, Edinburgh)

Photographs 1994-98: huge, panoramic, high-finish, micro-detailed, digitally manipulated images of our world – stock-exchange floor, cityscape, hotel foyer. Vista of more than the eye can see. *To 16 May*

ANTONY GORMLEY'S 'FIELD'

(firstsite at Culver St, Colchester) One of the great hits of the decade: a sea of 40,000 pint-sized clay men – obedient, expectant, musing, and stopping dead in a line at your feet. *To 3 May*

TOM LUBBOCK

EALING
VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-907 0719) BR/Virgin Ealing Broadway 9:00-11:00pm *The Faculty* 6:20pm, 8:30pm *Little Voice* 6:40pm *Mighty Joe* 12:30pm, 2

HAMPSTEAD
ABC (0870-902 0413) ♦ Belize Park The Red Violin 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.30pm Tea with Mussolini 2.45pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm La Vita è Bella 5.45pm, 8.30pm

HARROW
SAPARI CINEMA (0181-426 0303)
♦ Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Wealdstone Hum Rapke Oil Mein Rehnta Haa Jaanam Samjhata Hara 8.45pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) ♦ Harrow-on-the-Hill American History X 9.30pm Arlington Road 8.55pm Blast from the Past 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9pm A Bug's Life 10.40am, 1pm A Civil Action 11.10am, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.50pm The Faculty 12.30pm, 3pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Jack Frost 10.50am Madeline 10.20am Mighty Joe 10.10am, 12.40pm, 3.20pm Payback 11am, 1.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.40pm Plunkett and Maclean 10.30am, 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 7pm, 9.35pm The Prince of Egypt 10am The Rugrats Movie 9.50pm, 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm Shakespeare in Love 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm Walking Ned 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm You've Got Mail II 6.30pm

HOLLOWAY
ODEON (08705-050007) ♦ Holloway Road/Archway Blast from the Past 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm A Bug's Life 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm A Civil Action 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm The Faculty 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Mighty Joe 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm Payback 11am, 3.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm The Rugrats Movie 12noon, 2pm, 4pm, 6.10pm Shakespeare in Love 5.50pm, 8.30pm Walking Ned 12.45pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm

ILFORD
ODEON (08705-050007) ♦ Gants Hill The Faculty 1pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Kuch Kuch Haa Haa 7.30pm Mighty Joe 12.40pm, 3.30pm Payback 6.05pm, 8.45pm Plunkett and Maclean 12noon, 2.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm Walking Ned 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.55pm

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-902 0409) BR: Kingston A Bug's Life 1.25pm, The Faculty 2.25pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm Payback 2.25pm, 8.25pm Plunkett and Maclean 6.05pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 2.10pm, 4.20pm Walking Ned 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.55pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (08705-050007) ♦ Highgate The Faculty 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm Mighty Joe 1.15pm, 3.45pm Payback 6.45pm, 8.50pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.10pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm The Rugrats Movie 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm Walking Ned 1.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.55pm

PICKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Pickham Rye American History X 9.15pm Blast from the Past 12.15pm, 2.35pm, 4.50pm, 7pm A Bug's Life 12.40pm, 2.40pm A Civil Action 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.45pm The Faculty 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Mighty Joe 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm Payback 11am, 3.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm The Rugrats Movie 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm Walking Ned 1.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.55pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870-902 0407) BR: Putney A Bug's Life 3pm A Civil Action 5.10pm, 8.30pm The Faculty 5.10pm, 8.10pm Mighty Joe 1.10pm, 4.10pm Plunkett and Maclean 6.10pm, 8.35pm The Rugrats Movie 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond A Bug's Life 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Madeline 12noon, 2.30pm Payback 6.45pm, 8.50pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.10pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm La Vita è Bella 5.45pm, 8.30pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup A Bug's Life 12.30pm The Faculty 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streatham Hill Blast from the Past 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm A Bug's Life 12.15pm A Civil Action 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm The Faculty 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8pm Mighty Joe 1pm, 3.45pm Payback 6.30pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.40pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm Shakespeare in Love 8.45pm Walking Ned 7pm, 9.10pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-907 0717) BR: Cricklewood Blast from the Past 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm A Bug's Life 12.15pm A Civil Action 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm The Faculty 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8pm Mighty Joe 1pm, 3.45pm Payback 6.30pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.40pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm Shakespeare in Love 8.45pm Walking Ned 7pm, 9.10pm

TOTAL
ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Total A Bug's Life 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Madeline 12noon, 2.30pm Payback 6.45pm, 8.50pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.10pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm La Vita è Bella 5.45pm, 8.30pm

WATERLOO
ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Waterloo A Bug's Life 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Mighty Joe 1.15pm, 3.45pm Payback 6.45pm, 8.50pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.10pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm Walking Ned 1.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.55pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Wimbledone A Bug's Life 12.25pm, 2.30pm The Faculty 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Mighty Joe 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3pm, [?] 3pm, £19.50-E30.50, 160 mins.

WILTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-902 0424) ♦ Wilthamstow Central The Faculty 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm Payback 2.10pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 8.35pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 2.10pm, 4.20pm Walking Ned 12.45pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm

WORLDS END
ODEON (08705-050007) ♦ Worlds End A Bug's Life 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Mighty Joe 1.15pm, 3.45pm Payback 6.45pm, 8.50pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.10pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm Walking Ned 1.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.55pm

WYKES
ODEON (0870-902 0407) BR: Wykies A Bug's Life 3pm A Civil Action 5.10pm, 8.30pm The Faculty 5.10pm, 8.10pm Mighty Joe 1.10pm, 4.10pm Plunkett and Maclean 6.10pm, 8.35pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm Walking Ned 1.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.55pm

ZEEBRIDGE
ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Zeebridge A Bug's Life 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Mighty Joe 1.15pm, 3.45pm Payback 6.45pm, 8.50pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.10pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm Walking Ned 1.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.55pm

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Streatham Hill American History X 8.30pm A Bug's Life 12.20pm, 2.20pm The Faculty 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm, Madeleine 1.40pm Mighty Joe 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm Payback 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Plunkett and Maclean 12.50pm, 3pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Walking Ned 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

STRATFORD
NEW PICTURE HOUSE (0181-553 336) BR: Stratford A Bug's Life 12.30pm, The Faculty 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Gods and Monsters 1.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm Payback 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Plunkett and Maclean 12.50pm, 3pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Walking Ned 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

SUTTON
UCL (0990-888990) BR: Sutton A Bug's Life 1.15pm A Civil Action 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Faculty 4.35pm, 7.20pm, 9.45pm Mighty Joe 1.30pm, 4.40pm Payback 7pm, 9.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7pm, 9.15pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm Walking Ned 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week. Running times include intervals.

● Seats at all prices ■ — Seats at some prices □ — Returns only Matinees — [] Sun. [] Tue. [] Wed. [] Thur. [] Fri. [] Sat.

● **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical Her Majesty's Swan. SE1 (0171-494 5400/cc 3444) ♦ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [?], 10pm, £10-E35, 180 mins.

● **THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE** Richard Dreyfuss and Meryl Streep star in Neil Simon's comedy about a mid-life crisis. Theatre Royal Haymarket Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) ♦ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [?], 10pm, £10-E35, 180 mins.

● **ANIMAL CRACKERS** Stage version of the Marx Brothers' classic from the Royal Exchange Theatre Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ♦ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [?], 10pm, £10-E35, 180 mins.

● **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the enduring fairytale favourite. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1889) ♦ Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [?], 10pm, £10-E35, 180 mins.

● **ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE**
POLIVIER Candid Voltaire's work of comic genius featuring an all-star cast and Bernstein's head score. In rep. tonight 7.15pm, ends 24 Mar. Concessions £12.19. Olivier, E8-E10, South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000) BR/E35.

● **SHAW'S COTTAGE**

WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3110) ♦ Finchley Road Arlington Road 9.35pm Blast from the Past 1.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9pm A Bug's Life 11.20am, 1.40pm Gods and Monsters 1.30pm, 4.45pm Payback 7pm, 9.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 7pm, 9.15pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm Walking Ned 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

● **THEATRE**
COUNTRYWIDE

● **OKLAHOMA!** Maureen Lipman stars in the National's acclaimed production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's cowboy versus farmhand musical Lyceum Wellington Street, WC2 (0870-606 3446/cc 606 3446) ♦ Charing X/Entertainment Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [?], 10pm, £10-E35, 180 mins.

● **THE REINDEER OF MARY SWANSON** Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical inspired by La Bohème and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0700-211212) ♦ Holborn/Tot. Crd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [?], 10pm, £10-E32.50, 160 mins.

● **RENT** Musical inspired by La Bohème and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0700-211212) ♦ Holborn/Tot. Crd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [?], 10pm, £10-E32.50, 160 mins.

● **THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the enduring fairytale favourite. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1889) ♦ Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [?], 10pm, £10-E35, 180 mins.

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COUNTRYWIDE

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